



Y7 2021 Impact Report



Future
Leaders
Network

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Preface





A note of gratitude

We are grateful to the hundreds of people whose contributions - small and large - helped to make the Y7 2021 such a success. Your endless energy and enthusiasm were hugely appreciated.

Together, we are the leaders of tomorrow - making a difference today.

*"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together".*

— ORIGINS UNKNOWN

Foreword



SOPHIE DAUD

Chair of the Youth 7 2021,

Chief Executive Officer of the Future Leaders Network

When I accepted the title of Chair of the Youth 7 (Y7) in January 2021, I felt both an immense sense of pride and a huge weight of responsibility.

Pride, because the Y7 is a unique opportunity to ensure young people's voices are heard at the highest levels of decision making. If I played my part correctly, and I mobilised my incredible youth team effectively, young people from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union would have the chance to converse directly with world leaders, Ministers and decision makers on some of the biggest issues humanity faces today. Being the facilitator, the orchestrator, of such a feat is a humbling and inspiring experience.

And responsibility, because with such great power comes crucial and important accountability. I had a duty to create a process which reflected, celebrated and championed the full breadth and diversity of young people's views. In the middle of a global pandemic, which had disrupted so many young people's lives, livelihoods and educations, I knew I had a moral obligation to provide all young people, regardless of their backgrounds, the chances to have their voices at the highest levels.

In compiling this report, my team and I have reflected on just how much we achieved this year - and it is a lot. And, whilst of course things could be improved, I am confident that we struck the right balance - of championing the voices of young people in the upper echelons of international decision making, whilst returning, always, to the grassroots, to the young people we represent and their voices and ideas. It was this constant duality - of the pomp and glamour of international diplomacy alongside the blood, sweat and tears of representation - that made this experience both exhausting, rewarding and unique.

We set out to deliver the most inclusive, developmental and impactful Y7 in history. That was a huge task, but in all honesty it was the only task we could claim was the right one in the face of the global context and our own values. We put those three values at the core of our essence, at the heart of every action. And whilst, as we explore in this report, we didn't always get it perfect - we delivered something truly revolutionary, a step change in youth participation in international decision making. Our Y7 Communiqué represented 10,000 global youth voices; our outreach engaged over 40,000 young people around the world. Our participants learnt new skills and grew as leaders. And most importantly - we changed the world, securing mental health in the G7 Leaders' Declaration.

In this evaluation report, we wanted to celebrate the achievements of each and every young person involved in this journey. It would not have been possible without everyone's contribution. We have worked to bring out people's stories throughout the numbers and information, as they are the reason we do this. We have included stories, quotes and even awards (voted on by the young people themselves), to showcase the amazing work done.

But whilst this evaluation report draws our Y7 Presidency to a close, I know that for many young people, this is just the beginning. I very much hope that our Delegates and Youth Forum go on to bring the Y7 Communiqué to life; that our Taskforce are able to share with future employers and partners the range of incredible skills they have built in delivering this Summit; and that our Y7 Summit attendees and #AtTheTable Ambassadors truly feel equipped with the skills they need to change the world.

Young people really are the future, and I am so proud of each and every young person involved in this journey. It has been my honour and my privilege to serve alongside and with you this year. I cannot wait to see what, together, we can achieve.



CHAPTER 1

Introduction



Executive Summary

The Youth 7 (Y7) is the official youth Engagement Group for the Group of 7 (G7). Ahead of the annual gathering of world leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K., the U.S.A (and the EU as a permanent guest), young people from each of those nations come together to develop policy recommendations that they would want to see leaders agree to take action on when they meet.

Since 2011, the Future Leaders Network has selected and supported young leaders to represent the United Kingdom at the Y7. In 2021, in line with the U.K.'s G7 Presidency, the Future Leaders Network was therefore asked to organise and deliver the Y7. This involved not only recruiting and developing the U.K.'s delegation to the Y7, but also organising the process by which all international Y7 delegates would come together and negotiate policy recommendations and creating mechanisms for those recommendations to feed directly into Government.

The theme for the Y7 2021 was “Making Waves for Future Generations”, and its four policy areas were:

- Climate and the environment
- Digital and Technology
- The Economy
- Health

These were selected to align with the U.K.'s 2021 G7 Presidency Priorities.

The Future Leaders Network put young people at the centre of the Y7 2021. All participants - from the Y7 Chair, through to the young people who designed and delivered the Y7 - were aged 18 - 30.

In consultation with young people, the Future Leaders Network adopted three core values which would shape every decision made about the implementation of the Y7 2021:

- **Inclusion:** we wanted to welcome and include a diverse cohort of young people, and ensuring that everyone felt valued and included, so that the recommendations produced were truly representative of global youth;
- **Development:** the ambition was for each young person to learn and grow from the experience, building a new cohort of effective, ethical leaders; and
- **Impact:** young people have the capability to create real world change. We wanted the Y7 to be more than just a process, but a platform for all to achieve something of value to young people across the globe.

The hypothesis was that in embedding these three core values, the Y7 would increase the likelihood of the G7 Leaders and Ministers' declarations representing the needs of young people, and in doing so, begin to restore young people's faith in the democratic institutions which had, to date, let them down, and improve outcomes for young people globally.

Inclusion

The Future Leaders Network wanted the Y7 recommendations to be truly representative of the true diversity of global youth. We did this by:

- Increasing the diversity of voices included in the Y7 process:
 - » Carrying out an extensive awareness raising campaign to encourage as many young people to apply to take part in the U.K.'s Y7 delegation;
 - » Creating a Youth Forum, to bring young people who had personal experiences of the policy tracks into the room. The Youth Forum would participate alongside the Delegates, offering their thoughts, ideas and comments with the intention of grounding the Delegates' recommendations in lived experience;
 - » Requiring all Delegates to undertake public consultation to inform their policy recommendations, ensuring their ideas were evidence based and representative of the communities they served;
- Creating an inclusive process;
 - » Adopting inclusive practices;
 - » Hosting the Y7 digitally, ensuring that no young person was unable to participate due to the unfolding Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions; and
 - » Creating a Youth Sector Network of U.K. based youth organisations that would advise and challenge the Future Leaders Network on ensuring the process was as inclusive as possible.

As a result:

- 33 diverse Delegates and 20 Youth Forum members participated in the Y7 2021
 - » Just over half of the participants who filled in our survey came from a White background
 - » Nearly two fifths of the participants came from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background
- 9 out of 10 participants felt that the process was inclusive;
- Over 35 U.K. youth focussed organisations joined the Y7 Youth Sector Network, offering advice on how to make the event more inclusive; and
- 10,000 young people were engaged and consulted in the policy development process, ensuring the Y7 recommendations were led by young people's priorities.

Development

The Future Leaders Network aimed to ensure every young person involved in the Y7 developed and grew as a leader as a result of their participation by:

- Introducing Track Counsellors, experts who mentored and coached the Delegates and Youth Forum, sharing industry knowledge or experience and challenging them to be as ambitious as possible;
- Delivering an extensive training programme for the participants over the course of several months, equipping the Delegates with the skills, knowledge and understanding they needed

to build their policy making and advocacy skills; and

- Offering each individual the opportunity to undertake a bespoke personal leadership development programme.

As a result:

- 9 out of 10 Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum members developed new skills as a result of their participation;
 - » Participants reported an increase in their skills across all domains, from policy making, to public consultation, to presentation and communication skills
- Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum's confidence in their leadership skills increased by nearly 20%.

Impact

The Future Leaders Network worked tirelessly to ensure that the Y7 2021 had maximum likelihood of delivering real-world impact by:

- Creating a clear call-to-action for world leaders, through an intense and streamlined policy-making and negotiation process which prioritised a smaller number of recommendations, a high-profile virtual Y7 Summit with keynote speakers including the U.K. Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP; the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake; crossbench peer and campaigner, Lord John Bird; and award-winning artist George the Poet; and a professional, slick Y7 communique;
- Creating opportunities for the young participants to have early, frequent and participative engagement with policy officials, Government Ministers and political leaders to voice their ideas and recommendations directly to them and influence the decision making process on an ongoing basis;
- Raising awareness of the Y7 recommendations through a concerted media and publicity campaign, both throughout the process and through attendance at the G7 Media Centre and hosting a Y7 Side Event;
- Empowering young people to take responsibility for delivering their recommendations themselves - demonstrating that if world leaders don't take action, young people will step up and implement the changes in their communities to show them the way.

The result was that:

- The Y7 2021 produced 36 specific, actionable and prioritised recommendations for world leaders;
- Y7 Delegates were invited, for the first time in history, to speak at official G7 Working Group and Ministerial meetings - attending over a dozen of these across the year;
- The Y7 Summit has been viewed over 3,000 times online;
- Young people got mental health included in the G7 Carbis Bay Communiqué
- The Y7 was featured in local, national and international media
- The Y7 has produced 40 youth-led Post-Summit Initiatives, with Delegates and Youth Forum members delivering real-world change which has already reached over 200 young people in their communities.

Outreach

The Future Leaders Network recognised that more could be done to increase understanding of what the G7 and Y7 were, and the impact they could have on the world, especially amongst young people. They took action to increase awareness by:

- Designing the Y7 2021 #AtTheTable National Conversation, in which 200 Ambassadors were trained in how to speak to their peers about the G7, Y7 and some of the core policy issues under discussion;
- Securing grant funding from the U.K. Government to create a Mock G7 programme which enabled secondary school aged students to learn about the G7 and Y7 and gave them the opportunity to participate in a negotiation simulation;
- Accepting and seeking out a wide range of speaking engagements to build the profile, presence and understanding of the Y7 amongst a broad audience. These included sessions at Harvard Law School; One Young World, AIESEC and OECD events.

The result was:

- Over 2,000 young people aged 17 - 30 took part in conversations with our Ambassadors and learnt about what the G7 and Y7 were and what actions they wanted world leaders to take;
- Over 35,000 secondary school aged students participated in a Mock G7 across the world, creating the next generation of Y7 participants.

~50,000

YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

35,000

YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN OUR
MOCK G7 PROGRAMME AROUND THE WORLD

10,000

YOUNG PEOPLE CONSULTED
WITH ACROSS THE G7

200

#ATTTHETABLE
AMBASSADORS

33

INTERNATIONAL
DELEGATES

20

YOUTH
FORUM
MEMBERS

11

IMPLEMENTATION
TASKFORCE

4

SHERPAS



4

POLICY TRACKS

HEALTH

CLIMATE

DIGITAL

ECONOMY

1

Y7 Summit

The Future Leaders Network

Future Leaders Network (FLN) is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at discovering and developing the next generation of social, economic and political leaders in the United Kingdom.

Leadership (especially good leadership) matters - at an individual, societal and a global level. Yet there is no systematic, structured process to develop the leaders of tomorrow - and the fragmented mechanisms that do exist are expensive, elitist and out-of-date. As a result, we're currently suffering from a leadership crisis.



Image: Number 10

Our vision is a world where leaders at all levels of society are effective, ethical and affect positive change. We believe that to achieve this, we need to equip people with the knowledge, skills, experiences and networks they need to be successful before they step into leadership positions - not after. That means that to change the face of leadership tomorrow, we need to start with young people today.

We are working towards this vision by delivering:

- Contemporary, youth-centred and youth-relevant leadership training;
- Unique, life-changing, capability-building opportunities; and
- A diverse, stimulating and enriching network of changemakers, united by their desire to make a difference.

Values

- Diversity - we actively seek out and value a wide range of voices to ensure that our concept of leadership and the leaders we are supporting are reflective of the society they serve;
- Discipline agnostic - the problems of tomorrow span multiple sectors and disciplines, so we actively curate leaders who are comfortable working across institutional or organisational boundaries, from science, business and politics to hospitality and retail;
- Dialogue - we promote tolerance, debate and dialogue, because you only lead when you listen first;
- Demand for action - because to make the world a better place, once you've listened you've got to use your knowledge, skills and experience to actively change something for the better;
- Development - we believe that every opportunity is a leadership opportunity so we take every chance we can to reflect and learn; and
- Disruption - we are willing to speak out when we see something is wrong or could be done better. We always value honesty and integrity over the status quo.

FLN make a difference today with the leaders of tomorrow. [Become a member](#)

The G7 and Youth 7

The Group of 7 (G7) is an annual gathering of leaders from the world's seven more advanced democratic economies (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the European Union attending as a permanent observer). The countries come together to identify collective actions they can take to tackle shared global issues.



Image: Number 10

Each year the Presidency rotates amongst the members. In 2021, the U.K. hosted the G7 Presidency. The G7 2021 was hosted in Carbis Bay, Cornwall from 11 - 13 June.

The G7 has a number of Engagement Groups, whose purpose is to ensure that the decisions and agreements reached by diplomats, Ministers and Leaders truly represent the needs of all parts of society. In 2021, the U.K. Government supported six Engagement Groups - the Business 7 (B7), the Civil Society 7 (C7), the Labour 7 (L7), the Science 7 (S7), the Women 7 (W7) and the Youth 7 (Y7).

Since the youth summit's inception in 2011, the Future Leaders Network has selected and supported young leaders to represent the U.K. at the Youth 7 (Y7) (and its counterpart for the G20, the Y20). Typically, four young leaders are selected from each member state, and they are responsible for consulting with young people in their country; developing country-specific positions; and negotiating with their international counterparts to arrive at a set of recommendations (known as a communiqué) they want world leaders to take forward.

The communiqué is formally presented to G7 Leaders and Ministers at the Y7 Summit, which typically takes place around 4 weeks before the world leaders' Summit, with the intention of influencing their discussions and decisions throughout the year.

In line with the U.K. Presidency, the Future Leaders Network was appointed to host the Y7 2021. The Y7 Summit was held from 14 - 15 May 2021, virtually.



"The Youth G7 is an opportunity for young people from all backgrounds to be ambitious and play their part in the highest level of international decision making."

— RT HON THERESA MAY, FORMER PRIME MINISTER

"With the global pandemic dramatically disrupting young people's education, restricting their current and future employment prospects and diverting attention from tackling the issues that will most impact their future, such as the climate emergency, the Youth G7 2021 is a significant chance to champion the voice of the 'forgotten generation' at the highest level, influencing national and international response and recovery priorities."

— SOPHIE DAUD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FUTURE LEADERS NETWORK

CHAPTER 2

Future Leaders Network's approach to the Y7





Theme

"Making Waves for Future Generations"

"Making Waves" - the Future Leaders Network recognised that young people's biggest strength was their principles, their ideals, their willingness to disrupt the status quo. "Making waves" was chosen to demonstrate that young people were unafraid to speak up about what they believed as right - even if it was uncomfortable - as part of the G7/Y7 process.

"For Future Generations" - one of the issues FLN encountered previously was that young people were frequently told that they had 'no right' to be speaking about issues that were not directly relevant to young people. "Why should governments listen to what young people have to say on taxation, or foreign policy?" was a phrase we often heard.

The challenge was that from experience, FLN knew that young people often had a great deal they wanted to discuss - and not all of it was directly related to "youth" issues (such as education or youth unemployment). Drawing upon the success of recent climate change campaigns which capitalised upon young people's rights to demand actions to protect the world they will soon inherit, FLN chose the theme of "Making Waves for Future Generations."

The Youth 7 (Y7) 2021 championed the voice of Future Generations to G7 Ministers and Leaders. Young people now, and in years to come, will bear the social and economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Y7 called on G7 leaders to embed the needs of future generations in all national and international recovery plans, and to dramatically increase youth participation in democratic processes.

Policy priorities

The Y7 2021 had four policy tracks:

Climate and the Environment

Digital & Technology

Economy

Health

Delegates worked in these tracks to make recommendations to the various G7 diplomatic and Ministerial tracks. These tracks aligned with the 2021 U.K. G7 Presidency priorities:

Climate and nature

Free and fair trade

Health and strengthening health systems

Championing shared democratic values

Values of the Y7 2021

The Future Leaders Network adopted three core values which formed the foundations of the Y7 2021. These values were developed by the Y7 Design Working Group - core values developed by

young people, for young people, and acting as the Y7 'compass' and helping guide decision making throughout the year.

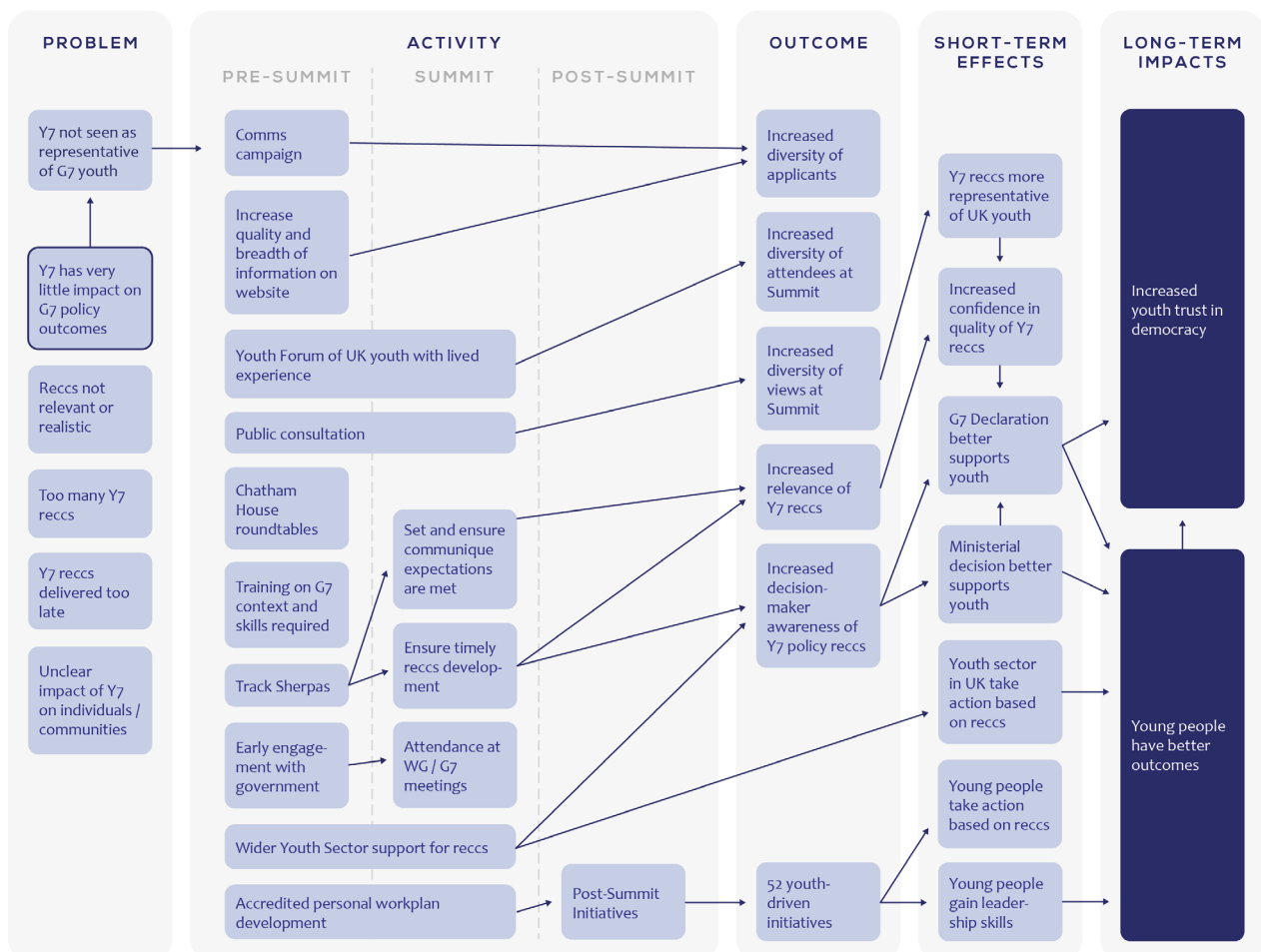
We refer to the values throughout the Evaluation Report, as they are such an integral part of the Y7 process. The pillars are used to form the basis of monitoring and data gathering and to evaluate the success and impact of the Y7.

- **Pillar 1: Inclusion** - The Summit is delivered inclusively and brings together diverse voices.
- **Pillar 2: Development** - Delegates and Forum representatives develop new skills.
- **Pillar 3: Impact** - The Y7 Communiqué influences G7 recommendations and has an impact on the situation of youth worldwide.

The Theory of Change model

The three Y7 Pillars or values were more than just moral imperatives or ideals. They were also crucial to solving some of the biggest barriers that previous Y7's had encountered to achieving success.

In late 2020, the Future Leaders Network combined the outcomes and ideas from the Pillars, with its understanding of the challenges the Y7 faced. The result was a 'Theory of Change' which set out what the world was like at the start of 2020; the world was desired to exist by the end of 2021; and how every aspect of the Y7 would come together to achieve that. Ultimately, the intention was that if the Y7 was as inclusive, impactful and developmental as possible, there would be two long-term impacts:



The Future Leaders Network Team

The Y7 2021 was entirely youth-led - every member of the team was aged 18 - 30. This was a conscious and purposeful decision by the Future Leaders Network to put young people - and their development through the incredible opportunities offered by the Y7 2021- at the heart of the process. There were three core teams whose work spanned the full duration of the Y7 2021.

Chair of the Y7 2021

In line with tradition, Sophie Daud, as Chief Executive Officer for the Future Leaders Network, was appointed as the Chair of the Y7 2021. Her role was to set the strategic vision for the Y7 2021; build and lead a team who would design and deliver the Y7 2021; and to act as the civic and ceremonial figurehead for the process.

Design Working Group July-October 2020

The purpose of the design working group was to ensure young people had a chance to influence the structure and fabric of the Y7 from the outset. It had three key objectives:

- To propose the outcomes or changes in the world that the Y7 2021 should achieve;
- To propose the suggested approach for outreach activity with young people and community/youth sector organisations that would help the Future Leaders Network to achieve those objectives;
- To propose a design for the overall Y7 2021 Presidency.

THANKS TO:

Lottie Myers (Group Coordinator)
Tom Matthew
Joana Baptista
Cameron Whiteley
Sophie Shields
Mohammad Mahdi Karim
Florence Goodrham
Sancha Conway Holroyd
Megan Doherty
Alexandra Otubanjo

After a wide-ranging call for applications, stratified random sampling techniques were used to select members, to ensure that the Working Group represented the geographic and demographic diversity of U.K. youth.

Twelve young leaders from across the U.K. were selected to participate, led by a Group Coordinator. The group created sub-groups of outcomes and outreach to help manage work and worked collectively together on design.

The outcomes group identified 4 aspects that they wanted the Y7 2021 to achieve; Inclusion, Impact, Development and Adaptation. These were dubbed 'pillars' and were used as a foundation to guide the Implementation Taskforce.

The fourth pillar, Adaptation (the Summit is environmentally friendly and adaptive to Covid19) became less relevant as the situation of the pandemic dictated an online Summit was most appropriate. The remaining three pillars were adopted by the Implementation Taskforce. They helped inform the group of the desired outcomes of the Y7 from their initiation.

The Design Working Group presented their proposed outcomes, outreach and design to the Future Leaders Network Senior Leadership Team and the U.K. G7 Presidency Taskforce in the Cabinet Office.

Implementation Taskforce Throughout 2021

Building on the work of the Design Working Group, a separate group of young people were recruited to the [Implementation Taskforce](#), to turn the Y7 from ideas into reality.

Two co-chairs were appointed and nine more young people were selected through an open recruitment process. The young people were selected for their passion for youth leadership and participation; relevant skills relating to their preferred area of activity; and their personal self-awareness and team-player capacities, as it was important to create a cohesive, high-performing team. The result was a diverse Taskforce with representation from across the United Kingdom and a range of professions or backgrounds.

The Taskforce was split into 3 sub-groups; Programme and Delegates, Logistics and Comms, Outreach and Media, each with their own responsibilities and remits:

CO-CHAIRS OF THE Y7 TASKFORCE

Anna Harris, Y7 delegate 2019 and founder of FLN Wales
Megan Doherty, member of the Y7 Design Working Group

PROGRAMME & DELEGATES

Anna Saunders
Annie Williams
Leah Sier

LOGISTICS

Marco Conticini
Stephen Tutin

COMMS, MEDIA & OUTREACH

Akanyshya Gurung
Michael Ojetunde
Ayesha Farah
Shwetal Shah

Programme and Delegates (or 'P&D')

- Communicating and liaising with the Y7 participants during the entire process
- Preparing Y7 participants, offering a world-class training programme to young people, equipping them with the skills they need to be successful
- Securing high profile speakers and quality trainers for the Summit and pre-Summit activities

Logistics, (or 'Logs')

- Planning the Summit itself and pre-summit activities
- Ensuring a successful digital delivery of the Y7 2021, managing suitable tech platforms for pre-negotiations, the Summit itself, national youth engagement and consultation activity.

Comms, Media and Outreach

- Raising awareness of the Y7 2021 by drafting press releases, creating communications campaigns and utilizing social media
- Working with the Youth Sector Network to share information, campaigns and engagement opportunities with a wide audience
- Supporting the development of the Mock G7 programme, national youth engagement and consultation activity.

The Taskforce, who were located across the country (and even out of the UK at times!) made the Y7 2021 what it is, supporting each other to create an impactful process, all while working remotely (as with everyone else during the Y7) due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.



Y7 AWARDS

Anna Harris
Excellent Organisation Award

2021



Y7 AWARDS

Leah Sier
Taskforce Team Player Award

2021

Team Sherpa January-June 2021

To ensure the Y7 2021 was as effective as possible, and that delegates had the best chance of having an impact, the Future Leaders Network implemented 'Sherpas' to support the delegates on their policy journey. Four Sherpas were selected, led by Alistair Lobo, FLN's Chief Operating Officer, one for each of the four policy tracks.

TEAM SHERPAS

Alistair Lobo (Head Sherpa, Economy)
Emily Campbell (Health)
James Forsey (Climate)
James Da Costa (Digital and Tech)

Team Sherpa were recruited based on skills (for example policy making and leadership) and experience, with each Sherpa having been involved in the Y7 or Y20 before. Once individuals were selected, they were assigned tracks based on their interest and the skillset. They developed and delivered the negotiations process of the Y7, working together to capitalise on their lived experience and also to gather feedback and reflections from their peers and academic experts.

Role of the Sherpa

- Coordinating the activity of each policy track - communicating, explaining and clarifying updates or decisions from the Future Leaders Network; identifying issues, risks or barriers; and building relationships between delegates
- Facilitating the negotiations within the policy tracks, ensuring that delegates produce realistic, specific and salient policy recommendations to present to Sherpas, Minister and Heads of State, including by challenging delegates to improve the quality of discussions, negotiations and ultimately the proposals
- Acting as the focal point for the delegates' interactions with their Track Counsellor (a senior leader from the U.K. from an industry relevant to the policy track, who will support recommendations) and their Track Officials (Government representatives who are responsible for negotiating the text for the Leaders' and Ministerial declarations).



PILLAR 1:

INCLUSION

Y7 2021

CAPTURING
DIVERSE VOICES

CREATION OF
A YOUTH SECTOR
NETWORK

DELIVERING THE
Y7 DIGITALLY

CREATION OF A
YOUTH FORUM

ADOPTING
INCLUSIVE
PRACTICES

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN
TO RECRUIT DIVERSE
U.K. DELEGATES





Introduction to Inclusion

In the Y7, typically four young leaders are selected from each G7 member state (and the EU) to represent their country. These young leaders are known as Delegates and they are responsible for consulting with young people in their country; developing country-specific positions; and negotiating with their international counterparts to arrive at a set of recommendations (known as a communiqué) they want world leaders to take forward.

The Future Leaders Network wanted the Y7 recommendations to be truly representative of the true diversity of global youth. This was done by:

- Increasing the diversity of voices included in the Y7 process - through wide ranging Delegate selection, the creation of the Youth Forum, mandatory public consultation and bringing in diverse speakers and experts;
- Creating an inclusive process - by adopting inclusive practices, hosting the Y7 digitally and creating a Youth Sector Network.

Increasing the diversity of voices in the Y7 2021

Publicity campaign to attract diverse Y7 delegates

Each G7 country, as well as the EU, has its own Organising Committee who selects the young people who represent them at the Y7. The Future Leaders Network engaged with them to reinforce the need for diverse young people who truly represented their populations.

The Future Leaders Network had responsibility for recruiting the U.K. delegation. They carried out significant activity to ensure the 2021 delegation reflected the true diversity of U.K. youth.

FLN began a huge campaign in December 2020, to raise awareness of the Y7 (and Y20) opportunities, with the ambition of increasing the diversity of applicants for the Y7 delegation. Each of the G7 countries selected their own delegates and ran a separate selection process. The Future Leaders Network recruited for the UK delegates.

The Future Leaders Network hosted two keynote events to maximise publicity and awareness of the Y7 opportunity:

- 1 December 2020, virtual roundtable with Rt Hon David Miliband (former Foreign Secretary), Sir Jon Cunliffe (Deputy Governor of Bank of England and former G7 Sherpa), Julia Kulik (G7 Research Group), Dr Tristen Naylor (G20 Research Group) and Spogmay Ahmed (International Centre for Research on Women)

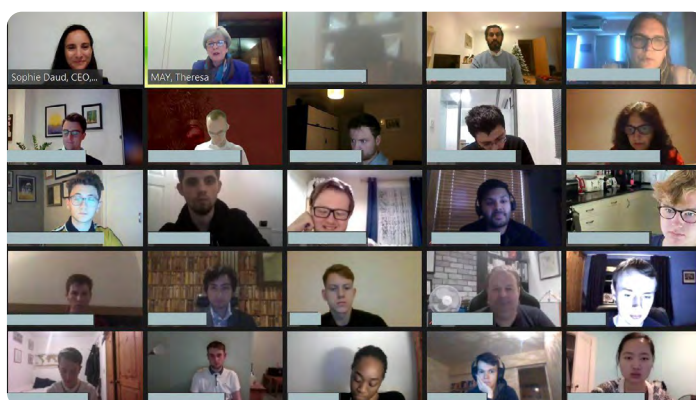
"The world needs a strong and united democratic world more than ever. The G7 needs to show its relevance to the aspirations and voices of people seeking a more cooperative, sustainable, equitable way of living. I hope the Future Leaders Network helps raise some of these voices."

— RT HON DAVID MILIBAND

"The countries around the G7 table have been pillars of the rules-based international order, which has benefited all our citizens and the world as a whole. But it is only through continued dialogue that we can find ways to work together to resolve the current challenges we face."

— RT HON THERESA MAY, FORMER PRIME MINISTER

- 6 December 2020, "In Conversation With Rt Hon Theresa May", former U.K Prime Minister and MP for Maidenhead



These were supported by two "Ask the Delegate" sessions in which young people could ask previous delegates about their experiences as Y7/Y20 delegates.

Selection process

The Y7 selection process for 2021 was revised to ensure that it enabled all applicants to bring as much of their personal experience to the process as possible. For example, it was made clear during the selection process that the essential criteria could be met from any part of an individual's experience - not just their professional life. The application process also made clear which essential criteria was being assessed by each question. In addition, for the first time, FLN gathered diversity data for equality monitoring purposes.

The selection process was as follows:

- Written applications accepted from 1 - 31 December 2020. 238 applications were received during this period.
- Candidates successful at the written stage progressed to first interviews which took place on 9 - 10 January 2021. 49 applicants were interviewed at this stage.
- The final round of interviews took place on 16 - 17 January. 15 candidates were invited to interview at this final stage.

The Future Leaders Network and each of the counter-organisations in the G7 countries selected 4 delegates for the Y7, corresponding to each policy track. Including a delegate from Australia, who were a guest country at the G7 in 2021, that totalled 33 youth delegates for the Y7 2021. You can see all of the delegates profiles [here](#).

Evaluation of the delegate publicity campaign

FLN experienced the highest number of applications (238) in the U.K. Y7/Y20 history.

The diversity outcomes were as follows:

- 51% of written applications received were from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals. 49 applicants were interviewed for the delegate position; 28 of these were White British, and 21 BAME.
- 52% of applicants, and 60% of interviewees were from Lower socio economic background
- 14% were from Wales, NI and Scotland and 45% from England beyond Greater London.

Applications breakdown

TOTAL APPLICATIONS: 236



* Wales, North Ireland, and Scotland

Interviews breakdown

TOTAL INTERVIEWS: 49



* Black and Minority Ethnic

As diversity data has not previously been captured, it is hard to assess whether progress has been achieved year on year. It is clear that proportions of applications from ethnic minorities,

LGBTQI and lower socioeconomic backgrounds candidates are strong, and that progress from written application through to interview is consistent. The Future Leaders Network is proud of the pipeline of applicants and their success rates to interviews for young people from a diverse range of backgrounds.

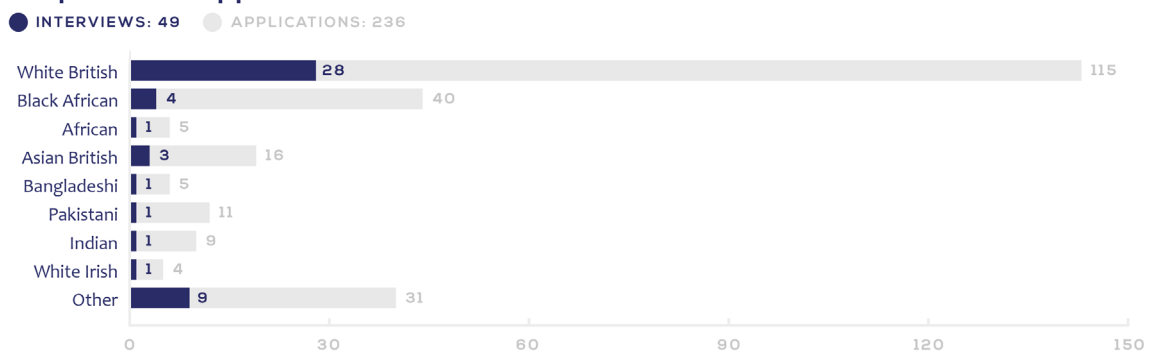
More remains to be done on geographical diversity. Whilst it is encouraging that over half of applicants were from outside of London, more needs to be done to reach young people from the Devolved Administrations.

In addition, one particular area of interest for future years should focus on educational diversity - as delegates (both in the U.K. and internationally) overwhelmingly have experience of tertiary education, and more could be done to reach out to young people from vocational and technical backgrounds.

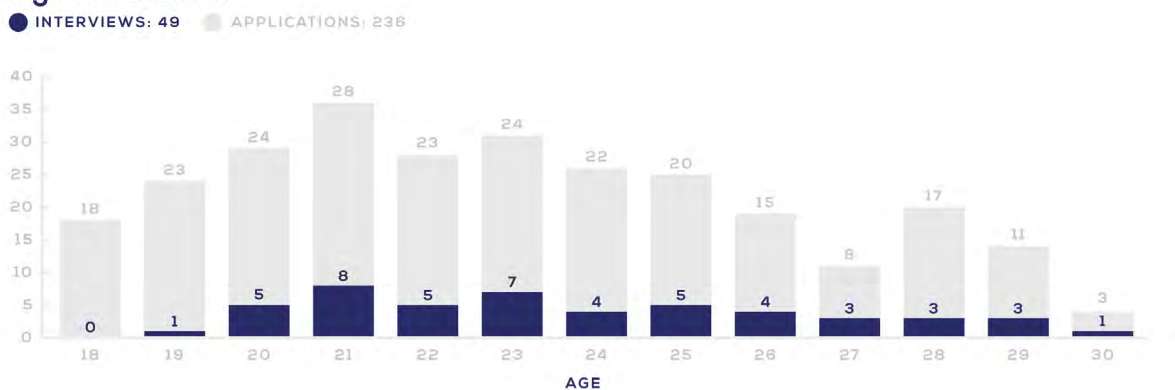
“Everyone was from everywhere and from all walks of life, and ranged in ages and their work.”

“I think the Y7 would benefit, moving forward, by including people from different educational backgrounds (i.e. people who did not go to University...)”

Proportion of applicants who made it to interview



Age breakdown



Creation of a Y7 Youth Forum

For the first time in history, the Future Leaders Network also created a Youth Forum, intending to bring in young people with real-world, lived experience of the four policy tracks under discussion into the Y7 process. The Youth Forum would attend all training and events alongside the delegates, and would act as a group of independent lived-experience experts who could bring in new points of view and support the delegates to draft representative, realistic policy recommendations. Initially, they were there to support all Y7 delegates, regardless of which country they came from. However, towards the end of their tenure, and in response to concerns raised by delegates, this was changed so that the Youth Forum supported only the U.K. delegate in the final negotiations.

Selection process

The selection process was deliberately created to encourage applicants to bring real-world, lived experience to the table, instead of academic expertise or intellectual curiosity for the matter under discussion. The questions were deliberately left open to ensure that young people could bring all manners of evidence they wanted.

Youth forum applicants were anonymised (e.g. all diversity characteristics removed) and doubly assessed. Successful candidates were selected based on written application alone and were split across the 4 policy tracks, to give real-world experiences to the delegates. View the profiles of all 20 successful candidates [here](#).

Evaluation of the Youth Forum selection process

There were 112 applicants, of which more than half female, over a third based in London and a tenth outside of England. A fifth were of Asian ethnicity and another fifth Black or Afro-caribbean ethnicity. At least a fifth of applicants were non-heterosexual.

As the Youth Forum has never existed before for the Y7, it is not possible to comment on year-on-year progress. This data will be monitored in future years and reported on then.

A key aim of the Youth Forum was to increase the diversity of perspectives involved in the Y7 declaration. Many young people commented that the wider group within each policy track allowed for Y7 recommendations to be formed with input from a wider variety of young people.

However, there were some challenges with the Youth Forum in its first year of delivery. The UK-only focus of nature of the recruitment of the Youth Forum led to some international Delegates feeling somewhat outnumbered by British points of view and meant the perspectives brought in did not necessarily represent the views of diverse youth in other countries.

As a result, in future, we recommend all G7/Y7 countries recruit their own Youth Forum, so that all delegates feel they have the support of a diverse range of voices in their policy development that come from their particular context.

"I have to say that there were [sic] a lot of ethnic diversity at the Y7 this year. I applaud that."

"It wasn't just diverse in ethnicity, but also in background and way of life. It added many different perceptions to every argument."

"The Youth forum was a good attempt at making the Y7 inclusive. However, because the Youth forum was only composed of UK youth, perspectives and experiences remained narrow and British-centered, which made it undemocratic or unfair for non-UK delegates"

"If there's to be a Youth Forum in the future, it should include youths from all over the world, not just from Britain."

Capturing diverse voices through research and consultation

To inform the Y7 communiqué, the Future Leaders Network and Y7 Delegates conducted thorough quantitative and qualitative research. For the first time in history, this was mandatory (e.g. a requirement) for all delegates. This was to ensure that the recommendations were grounded in evidence and representative of young people from across the G7.

Quantitative research

The Future Leaders Network provided training to all delegates on how to host effective public consultations at Basecamp (see ‘Development’ for more information).

They also secured a grant from the U.K. Government to deliver a wide-ranging public consultation exercise ahead of the Y7 in the U.K. They commissioned Opinium to survey 2,000 young people from across the U.K, aged 14 - 30, which was representative of the full breadth of U.K. youth. This survey took place from 1 - 14 March 2021.

The key findings from this were:

ECONOMY AND WORK

Thinking ahead to when the economy recovers from the Coronavirus pandemic young people would most like to see more flexible working arrangements (35%) and over a quarter (27%) more skills development opportunities in the workplace.

THE DIGITAL WORLD

The main issue faced by young people in accessing digital services is unstable internet access (25%), followed by sharing of devices with other household members (16%) and limited internet access (16%).

HEALTHCARE

Over half (56%) of young people say mental health is the healthcare area they most want government to take action on. A quarter (24%) don't know where to find support, whilst 30% don't know how to access it.

CLIMATE

A quarter (25%) of young people do not feel informed about climate change. Almost a third (31%) of young people say that plastic pollution requires the most attention, whilst 23% think deforestation is the biggest issue.

The full consultation findings can be found [here](#).

FLN also secured funding to host an ‘open-source’, UK-wide survey. Nearly 1,000 young people took part. However, as the sample was heavily skewed towards the South West (where the Y7 was being hosted) and towards females (roughly 60:40 split) it was decided that the results would not be included in the main findings, but instead used to gather and elicit further information on the groups which were overrepresented.

Qualitative research

The Future Leaders Network hosted a training for all Y7 delegates on how to host an inclusive, insightful and robust focus group. The U.K. Y7 delegation hosted 12 focus groups throughout March and April 2021, with around 180 young people participating in these qualitative consultations.

Evaluation of research

The Future Leaders Network’s research in the United Kingdom allowed over 2,000 young voices to be heard and included in the development of the U.K. Y7 policy recommendations.

In addition, the training provided by the Future Leaders Network open to all delegates from all countries. Collectively, Y7 delegates consulted and engaged a total of **10,000 young people** across

all seven G7 countries. Whilst full demographic data are not available, it is clear that a diverse and wide ranging number of young people were able to contribute to the Y7 policy recommendation process, better enabling it to be represented of Y7 youth.



Bringing in diverse speakers

Throughout the Y7 process, the Delegates and Youth Forum were exposed to and interacted with a wide range of speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds. This included:

- Presentations from or with other G7 Engagement Groups, for example the Confederation of British Industry (Business 7), BOND (Civil Society 7) and the Trade Union Congress (Labour 7)
- Joint dialogues with other young leaders working in a similar space (for example the UNFCCC Race to Zero champions met with the Y7 Climate Track delegates)

These diverse ideas and perspectives helped to ensure that the Y7 recommendations were informed by all of the evidence and information available.

“The Y7 taskforce definitely worked hard to bring in a wide variety of speakers and experts to support delegates. Those efforts were noticed and appreciated.”

Diversity statistics

Of the 32 Y7 participants who completed our survey:

- **Just over half** of the participants were from a White background
- **Two fifths** of the participants were from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic Background
- **One in ten** preferred not to say

Over twenty new voices were brought to the process through the Youth Forum

2,000 young people in the U.K. had their voices heard through the Future Leaders Network’s quantitative research

10,000 young people from across the G7 had their say in what the Y7 recommended to world leaders

Creating an inclusive process

Adopting inclusive practices

The Future Leaders Network aimed to create comfortable, welcoming and inclusive spaces for all participants from the start, and delivered this by:

- Asking all delegates to include their pronouns in their name on Zoom;
- Explicitly stating the expectation that everyone's voices would be heard equally and treated with respect throughout the process;
- Creating a relaxed, fun atmosphere to the community, starting meetings with music and slides;
- Assuming nothing - hosting in-depth, quality training sessions to equip all Delegates and Youth Forum sessions with the skills and knowledge they needed to be successful (see 'Development') ensuring that if young people did not come from a policy making background, they were not disadvantaged or 'left behind' in the process;
- Hosting a mixture of sessions throughout the training - ranging from keynote speakers, to panels, to breakout sessions, to ensure participants were not simply being 'talked at' or staring at a screen for long periods of time;
- Aiming to host most meetings at the least inconvenient times (for example, weekends or during lunch hours) in recognition of the fact that most young people were participating in the Y7 alongside full-time education or employment, and acknowledging the wide range of time zones participants came from.

Evaluation of inclusive practices

9/10 Delegates and Youth Forum members felt that the Y7 was somewhat or very inclusive. This is a strong piece of feedback, reflecting the clear emphasis and commitment to inclusion throughout the Y7 Implementation Taskforce, Sherpas and team.

"Inclusivity of all the participants was a stated priority of the Y7 and voices outside of the Y7 delegations were brought into the fold several times."

However, there remains room for improvement:

- **Confusion over the role of the Youth Forum:** the Youth Forum was originally intended as an advisory function - bringing together young people with lived experience of the policy tracks to advise and support all of the Y7 delegates in each track by offering new and diverse perspectives and ensuring recommendations and ideas are grounded in reality. However, as previously mentioned, the U.K. centric nature of the Youth Forum meant that some of the international (non-UK) delegates felt 'outnumbered'. Conversely, some Youth Forum members were disappointed that they did not have the same decision making rights as the Delegates. Whilst this was always the intention - as they did not technically represent a country, and were there in an advisory capacity - it is clear there was some miscommunication and/or misunderstanding. As a result of this confusion, ahead of negotiations, the Future Leaders Network reoriented the Youth Forum role to focus on supporting the U.K. delegate (not all delegates in their track). This was a complicated shift, and did pose some communication, logistical and morale challenges. In future years, if each country recruits their own Youth Forum, it is important to set clear expectations about their role (which we recommend should

be focussed on supporting country Delegates in consultation or advising on policy making).

- **Time zones:** Finding a time slot that suited all participants was difficult, with some participants needing to rise extraordinarily early or stay up late into the night simply to participate in Y7 activities, potentially limiting their participation. Nonetheless, most delegates who expressed concern over this recognised that given the time differences across the G7, there was no ‘perfect’ answer. In future, one option could be to host each event at different times of the day, so no one time zone benefits exclusively compared to the others.
- **Length and quantity of sessions:** whilst many young people agreed the development programme was comprehensive, positive and beneficial (see ‘Development’) there were some concerns over the number and length of these sessions. To ensure future sessions are inclusive of all young people, including neurodivergent young people, it would be helpful to focus on fewer core areas and have smaller, more frequent and more active group discussions. In addition, it is important that future Organising Committees are clear up front as to the time commitment so that when Delegates are recruited they understand the expectations and are not overwhelmed.
- **Scheduling of sessions:** the Future Leaders Network inadvertently scheduled the first two days of the Y7 Summit on the dates Eid-al-Fitr, a major Islamic religious celebration, was expected to fall. Whilst this was an accidental oversight which was quickly rectified (by moving those days of the Summit to the preceding weekend) it caused a great deal of inconvenience for the participants and organisers, and it clearly was not in the interest of inclusion to accidentally schedule the Summit at the same time as a major religious festival. In future, organising committees should check the dates of events do not coincide with any major religious festivals.

“I would make (the Y7) more inclusive for neurodivergent folks and distil it down so that only the really important parts are included. We don't need so many talks and meetings, and smaller groups where active participation is required are often far more effective than long presentations”

“The fact that Eid was an afterthought resulting in some last minute schedule changes was inconvenient for everyone involved, both Muslim and non-Muslim.”

Delivering the Y7 Digitally

Throughout the planning and delivery of the Y7, the pandemic was an ever-present part of life. Owing to ongoing uncertainty around the restrictions that both national and international participants might face on daily activities and travel, in November 2020, the U.K. Cabinet Office announced that all of the G7 Engagement Group meetings would be hosted online.

Whilst disappointing (in previous years, preparations for the Summit have been hosted virtually, but the Summit itself hosted face-to-face), the Future Leaders Network was prepared and had anticipated this possible eventuality (especially as the 2020 Y7, hosted by the U.S.A. was also held virtually, also due to the pandemic). We therefore delivered almost all of the Y7 2021 activities online, usually on Zoom.

Evaluation of Y7 Digital Delivery

There were some benefits to digital delivery:

- **Accessibility:** Participants from different ends of their countries could interact with their counterparts on the other side of the world, simply through a click of a button, without any concerns over expensive travel or accommodation costs.

- **Breadth of speakers:** We secured high profile speakers from all parts of the globe, unfettered by travel barriers to their attendance.
- **Long-term relationships:** And indeed, the many thousands of hours spent virtually connecting did lead to productive, fulfilling working relationships and friendships that demonstrate that diplomacy can and will know no boundaries.
- **Equity:** the virtual Summit meant that the unequal roll-out of vaccination (and indeed across the G7) did not pose a barrier to participation, as any in-person or hybrid event inevitably would have done.

Nonetheless, there were some challenges:

- **Screen time:** the thousands of cumulative hours spent online building relationships or conducting necessary business ran a real risk of ‘screen burnout’ (especially those for whom their daily professional life also required online working). This was mitigated through shorter sessions, regular breaks and interactive activities, but more could have been done to break the longer digital events hosted up into more manageable chunks.
- **Digital divide:** some platforms (e.g. the platform selected by the U.K. G7 Presidency for the Y7 Summit) required a large bandwidth over several hours’ worth of airtime, which could be incompatible with the infrastructure and resources available to some youth around the world.
- **Accessibility:** the lack of subtitling or transcripts could have limited accessibility.
- **Hybrid working:** when some events did take place in-person towards the end of the year, there was some concern about the fact that only U.K., or possibly E.U. citizens would be able to attend due to the short notice and Covid-procedures in place at those times. Whilst it is not sensible to cancel all in-person activities because some people cannot attend, attention should be paid to ensuring that young people who cannot travel do not feel excluded or left behind.

Creating the Youth Sector Network

To increase the diversity of youth voices in the Y7/G7 and increase the impact of the Communiqué, a Youth Sector Network, composed of an initial 37 organisations was set up. The full list of organisations involved can be found in the Acknowledgments.

They met every 6 - 8 weeks and supported FLN through the Y7 process by:

- Aiding in the selection of Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum members through outreach to specific communities they were in contact with;
- Advising on best practices for the public consultation; and
- Acting as a troubleshooting function, for example, the rescoping of the Youth Forum later on in the process.

Evaluation of the Youth Sector Network

In July 2021, the Future Leaders Network surveyed the Youth Sector Network members. Of the eight youth organisations who responded:

- Three quarters of the organisations had attended four or more meetings - demonstrating ongoing support and input
- All of those who had been to the meetings said that they think their participation in the Youth Sector Network resulted in a more inclusive Y7 2021 process;

- More than two thirds of the organisations said they had nominated one of their young people to take part in Y7 outreach activities, helping the Y7 to reach a wider range of young people.

This shows us that the forming of the Youth Sector Network likely contributed towards the inclusivity of the Y7.

“A great experience all in all. Felt very included in the entire process.”

— YOUTH SECTOR NETWORK MEMBER

“I was really impressed by how this was run and level playing field that was created amongst all stakeholders. Well done everyone at Future Leaders Network and the Y7”

— YOUTH SECTOR NETWORK MEMBER

The YSN provided some valuable feedback which mirrored and echoed the findings from the Y7 participants:

- **Confusion over the role of the Youth Forum:** one YSN member reflected that their young people, who had taken part in the Youth Forum felt disappointed that they did not have the same voting or decision making rights as the Delegates. Whilst it was never intended that the Youth Forum would have the same rights as Delegates (as they did not technically represent a country, and were there in an advisory capacity) it is clear that communication could have been improved to clarify the Youth Forum’s role and remit.
- **Quick turnaround times:** due to the nature of much of the Y7 Outreach funding (see ‘Outreach’) some activities had very short nomination periods or timeframes. This limited the opportunity for some young people to participate, as some may be balancing multiple jobs, education or personal commitments and so longer lead-in times are preferable.
- **Eligibility criteria for future Y7s:** one of the Youth Sector Network commented that the current selection criteria are not inclusive for all young people especially refugees (as they could not apply to represent the U.K. unless they held a U.K. passport) and that this could reinforce the exclusion of certain groups.

“There was also not enough representation of people from refugee backgrounds in the Y7, and due to this, refugee rights and protections would not ever realistically be on the agenda. This is a power imbalance that reflects the everyday life of someone from a refugee background.”

Pillar One: Conclusion

Overall the Y7 2021 engaged a wide range of young people in the policy development process, through recruiting diverse delegates, creating the Youth Forum and overseeing the consultation and engagement of around 10,000 young people globally, ensuring the recommendations developed reflected the true diversity of G7 youth. It is difficult to assess the progress year on year, as data has not been collected in previous years, but nonetheless this is a solid foundation.

The Future Leaders Network also put inclusivity at the core of its delivery, committed to adopting inclusive practices, hosting the Y7 digitally in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and creating the Youth Sector Network to challenge and hold them to account on inclusion. There are clear areas where more can be done in future years to promote inclusion, which the Future Leaders Network is committed to both adopting internally and working with international partners to embed in future.

PILLAR 2:

DEVELOPMENT

Y7 2021





Introduction to Development

The Future Leaders Network aimed to ensure every young person involved in the Y7 developed and grew as a leader as a result of their participation by:

- Offering them expert mentorship from our Track Counsellors, who met the Delegates and Youth Forum frequently, and challenging them to be as ambitious as possible;
- Delivering an extensive training programme for the participants over the course of several months, equipping the Delegates with the skills, knowledge and understanding they needed for success at the Y7.

Expert Mentorship

Track Counsellors

For the first time, FLN introduced Track Counsellors to support the Y7 delegates' development. Track Counsellors are established industry leaders, who voluntarily gave their time to mentor and coach the delegates, supporting them to deliver the most ambitious recommendations with the best understanding of the practical challenges in the industry.

The Track Counsellors for 2021 were:

- Climate and Environment: Professor Ian Chapman, Chief Executive of the UK Atomic Energy Authority



"To find answers to the climate crisis, we need young people with the passion, ideas and energy to drive them. I have been so impressed by the Y7 group and the solutions they have come up with. As someone involved in developing low-carbon energy through fusion, their recommendations really resonated with me – and I'm sure they will have an impact on the G7 during the U.K.'s presidency and beyond."

- Digital and Technology: Baroness Martha Lane-Fox, co-founder of lastminute.com and Executive Board member for Chanel and Twitter
- Economy: Rain Newton-Smith, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, and Shriti Vadera, Chair of Prudential plc¹
- Health: Sir Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust and member of the U.K. Government's Covid-19 Scientific Advisory Group in Emergencies



"The Y7 is right to ask their leaders to ensure global, equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines" (on the release of the Y7's Communiqué in May, ready to be presented to the world leaders at their Summit in June.

The delegates met with their Track Counsellors at least monthly over six months for one hour - though many of the Counsellors so enjoyed their relationship with their delegates that they met more frequently and for much longer than anticipated.

Evaluation of the Track Counsellors

The Track Counsellors were a new addition in 2021, and they were received extremely positively by the Delegates and Youth Forum members. Two thirds of Y7 participants felt that Track Counsellors were somewhat or extremely beneficial, explaining that they gained value from:

- Being connected directly to industry experts, who had a wealth of institutional and governmental knowledge, and could share what had been done before in the policy space or identify potential barriers or opposition the Delegates might face to their recommendations
- The healthy challenge and debate the Track Counsellors offered, encouraging Delegates to be as ambitious as possible.

¹ The Economy Track did not have one fixed Track Counsellor, so met on an ad hoc basis with Shriti Vadera and Rain Newton-Smith.

The relationship was valued by both the Delegates, Youth Forum and Track Counsellors alike, enjoying experiencing new perspectives and ideas.

“We benefited very much... They were the perfect person to guide those of us on our Track, with their wealth of experience in the industry and also in politics... They provided necessary context, policy experience, encouragement, insight and sensitivity.”

— Y7 DELEGATE

“Our track counsellor brought a lot of knowledge and expertise. They were also very open to giving feedback and suggestions, which were very valuable guidance.”

— Y7 DELEGATE

Nonetheless, there were some challenges with the programme in its first year.

- Track Counsellors, as experts in their field, were naturally opinionated. As a result, some Delegates commented that there could be the possibility that the young people’s actions could be heavily influenced by their Track Counsellors ideas or approaches. Potential mitigation activities could include reminding the Delegates that their Track Counsellor is only one voice, and to recognise and reinforce the need to pay attention to youth priorities and opinions.
- The Future Leaders Network struggled to find a consistent Track Counsellor for the Economy Track, which the Delegates and Youth Forum were disappointed about. In future, potential options could be seeking less high profile names, but nonetheless experienced leaders who could commit to mentoring and supporting the young people. In addition, as the Track Counsellor role was new this year, in future seeking Counsellors earlier could help.

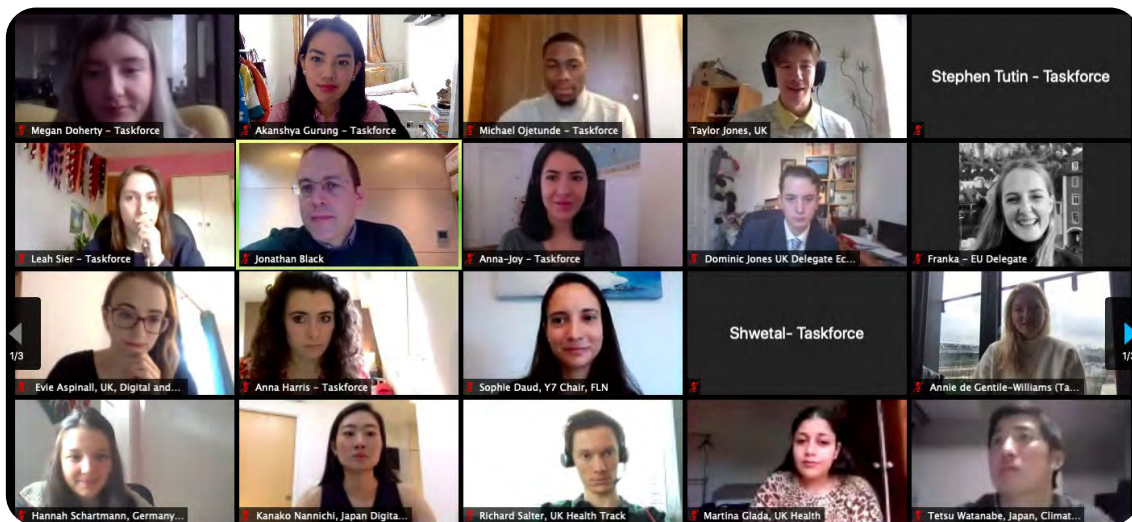
Extensive training programme to equip young people with the skills for success

To ensure delegates and Youth Forum members were as equipped as possible to develop policy recommendations and that the Y7 2021 had the maximum possible impact, training and development was a core part of the process.

The Future Leaders Network developed an extensive training programme from the launch of the Y7 in February to the main Summit in May. Training focussed on policy making, communications and negotiations and gave participants opportunities to network, build relationships with each other and external engagement groups, and put their training into practice.

Launch Event **6 February 2021**

The launch event successfully kicked off the Y7 2021 process, bringing together the international delegates, the Youth Forum and the organising team for the first time on the 6th February 2021.



Its purpose was to:

- Explain the vision and structure of the Y7 2021
- Provide crucial contextual information on the U.K. Government's G7 Presidency Priorities
- Encourage the young people reflect on their ambitions for the process ahead of them.

Jonathan Black, the UK Prime Minister's G7/G20 Sherpa set out his aspirations for the U.K.'s G7 Presidency.

Delegates and Youth Forum members also heard from a panel of previous Y7 Delegates, took part in virtual networking and undertook a short personal development session.



"Covid has affected us all, but has had a particular impact on young people...the UK wants to ensure the voices of young people are heard. Having this diverse and engaged group of young future leaders is a huge asset for the G7"

— JONATHAN BLACK, U.K. G7 AND G20 SHERPA

Basecamp **13-14 February 2021**

Basecamp was the first structured training event for the Delegates and Youth Forum and it took place one week after the Launch Event.

Its purpose was to:

- Equip Delegates and Youth Forum members with the skills and knowledge they needed to deliver their first sets of tasks - public consultation and policy development
- Initiate the policy development process.

We heard from six speakers:



- Jacob Ellis (Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales) shared the importance of Future Generations, the official theme of the Y7 2021.
- A panel of experts shared advice on how to harness youth participation and engagement in policy making (Sarah Allan - Involve UK, Jerome Harvey-Agyei - London Mayor's Office, Mete Coban, My Life My Say).
- Jill Rutter (Institute for Government) delivered a workshop to introduce the delegates and Youth Forum members to the process of policy making and hosted an interactive policy-making exercise.



Credit: Institute for Government

- Sophie Wilson (Ipsos Mori), hosted a seminar on how to approach research and ensure the delegates had a robust methodology for their public consultations.



Credit: Ipsos Mori

Chatham House Roundtables

During March, Roundtables were held for each policy track. The purpose was for Delegates and Youth Forum members to:

- Explore the range of issues and ideas that the global public policy community is grappling with in relation to their policy track
- Commence dialogue on the 3 sub-theme areas that they would focus their recommendations on within their track.



The Roundtables were facilitated by young leaders from [Chatham House](#), an independent policy institute and a trusted forum for debate and dialogue, and were hosted under the [Chatham House rule](#), meaning delegates were welcome to use the information learned through the event, but should not directly attribute it to the individual who said it. At each event, delegates heard from:

- An academic or industry ‘expert’ who shared their findings or opinions on the biggest issues facing the world in relation to the track under discussion;
- A U.K. Government official (civil servant) who shared the G7 Presidency priorities that were relevant to the policy track.

The Delegates and Youth Forum then hosted a dialogue with other young leaders from Chatham House’s Youth Panel or Common Futures Conversations programmes to prioritise the top three areas they would focus on as part of their policy development.

We heard from:



- Chatham House: Dr Daniel Quiggin (Energy, Environment and Resources Programme), Marjorie Buchser (Digital Society Initiative), Dr Linda Yueh (Global Economy and Finance Programme), Emma Ross (Global Health Programme)
- U.K. Government representatives from Her Majesty’s Treasury; Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Department for Work and Pensions; Department of Health and Social Care; Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Ascent Camp 27-28 March 2021

By the start of Ascent Camp, the Delegates had selected three ‘sub-theme’ areas that they would develop their policy recommendations on.



DAY 1



DAY 2

The purpose of Ascent Camp was to:

- “Stress test” the three sub-theme areas selected by the delegates to focus on, to ensure they were truly Future Generations’ focused;
- Equip the delegates with the skills and knowledge they needed to undertake the next phase of the Y7 process - presenting their ideas, and negotiating them with each other/

We heard from 3 speakers:



*“Prepare - for every outcome;
Practice - responding to the tough questions;
Perform - with certainty!!!”*

– ELLIOT KAY, ON COMMUNICATING WITH IMPACT

- Mark Thompson (UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), spoke about his experience as a negotiator and provided top tips to the delegates on how to prepare for and participate in international negotiations.
- Elliot Kay (Speaker Express), delivered a workshop on how to communicate effectively and with confidence.
- Sophie Howe (Future Generations Commissioner for Wales) challenged the delegates on their policy proposals, guiding them to refine and be more future-focused.



Y7 AWARDS

Mojann Zibapour
Delegate Team
Player Award

2021



Y7 AWARDS

Marco Conticini
Presentational
Prowess

2021

Personal Development plans

To support the Delegates and Youth Forum's development journeys throughout the Y7 process and to add to the formal training at the various pre-summit events, the Future Leaders Network provided in-depth quality coaching material every week, to aid the delegates' personal development as well as collective G7 success.

The personal development plans were centered around three areas; Purpose, Power and People. Each section encouraged delegates to answer questions around that theme, to read/watch content and to do structured tasks.

Questions included:

- **Purpose:** What is your personal purpose and motivation as a leader? What is your narrative or story to explain to others why they should be led by you and join your purpose?
- **Power:** How will you effectively influence others to affect change?
- **People:** What is your authentic leadership style?

Your Personal Development - 1.1

The FLN approach to Leadership describes it as a "process of influence, which aims to maximise the efforts of others in pursuit of a common goal". So it's about **power**, it's about **people**, and it's about **purpose**.

Our first Theme will encourage you to focus on your **Purpose** in Leadership. This theme has three modules (1.1 - 1.3).

1.1. This week, we ask that you look at your own leadership Purpose [Theme 1] through the lens of the '**Self**' [Lens 1]. This will involve some questions for you to ask yourself, some interesting content to get your creative juices flowing, and some tasks that we believe will be useful to complete in your journey to become a well-rounded and thoughtful leader.

Evaluation of training programme

The Delegates and Youth Forum members reported an in-depth transformation and multiple benefits. The Y7 gave them a renewed purpose and drive, new valuable relationships and a profound boost in their confidence and belief in themselves and what they can achieve. Some even reported more clarity on their career choices moving forwards and where they want to focus.

9 out of 10 young people involved in the training programme reported gaining new skills as a result of being involved in the Y7 - a testament to the thorough training and support the young people were offered.

We saw a positive uplift in all skills, ranging from communication skills, policy making, public consultation and negotiation, measured when comparing responses from the baseline to the endline, showing that the training programme was effective and delivered on its goals.

The top three skills young people developed were (around two thirds of young people participating reported an increase in these areas):

- Communicating with other cultures
- Understanding of politics and democracy
- Negotiation skills

Young people's confidence in their ability as a leader increased from an average of 6.6 to 7.8/10 from being part of the Y7 - a nearly 20% increase over the space of just six months.

In terms of recommendations for the future:

- Choosing dates well in advance, and ensuring that the dates and times of any training programmes do not coincide with major religious festivals, is crucial to maximise participation and inclusion;
- More could be done to break the events up into smaller, more manageable chunks - some young people reported being tired from large amounts of time spent online.

“The Y7 was brilliant at noticing where we needed to develop skills and got masters in their own fields to teach us directly. Everything that was coordinated felt like it had a genuine purpose, and that added a lot of value to the experience”

— YOUTH FORUM MEMBER

Pillar Two: Conclusion

The Y7 was successful at equipping young people with the skills needed to thrive both within the Y7 process and in the rest of their careers, ensuring every young person could grow from the experience.

Participants of the Y7 gained multiple life skills, confidence and leadership capabilities.

- Participants found their relationships with the newly formed Track Counsellors hugely valuable, encouraging intergenerational dialogue and knowledge sharing;
- 9 out of 10 Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum members developed new skills as a result of their participation;
- Participants reported an increase in their skills across all domains, from policy making, to public consultation, to presentation and communication skills
- Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum's confidence in their leadership skills increased by nearly 20%.

PILLAR 3:

IMPACT

Y7 2021

EMPOWERING YOUNG
PEOPLE TO DELIVER
CHANGE

ALTITUDE
CAMP

POST SUMMIT
INITIATIVES

Y7 SUMMIT +
COMMUNIQUE

INTERNATIONAL
MEDIA CENTRE

REGULAR PRESS
ENGAGEMENT

POLICY
DEVELOPMENT





Introduction to Impact

The Future Leaders Network aimed to ensure that the Y7 2021 had real-world, tangible impact on both policy making and the lives of young people globally. This was achieved by:

- Developing a clear call to action, with fewer, more focussed recommendations, through an intense negotiation process. The Y7 call to action was successfully launched at the Y7 Summit in May 2021;
- Early, frequent and participative engagement with Government officials to ensure they understood the youth perspective at critical moments in multilateral decision making, and that the global youth voice was heard and understood;
- Generating substantial media coverage for the Y7 process, increasing public awareness and increasing the pressure on governments to adopt the Y7 recommendations; and
- Equipping the young people involved in the Y7 with the skills needed to deliver meaningful change in their communities - so the call to action was more than just words, but could be translated into action by the young people who created it.

Clear Call to Action

To deliver real-world impact, it needed to be crystal clear what the Y7 was calling for. Previous Y7s had been criticised for producing too many recommendations, making it difficult for governments and international actors to understand what young people's priorities were, and what, in a context of limited resources, they wanted to happen.

To deliver a clear call to action, the Future Leaders Network:

- Facilitated an intense policy making and negotiation process to select streamlined recommendations;
- Announced this select group of recommendations at the Y7 Summit in May 2021.

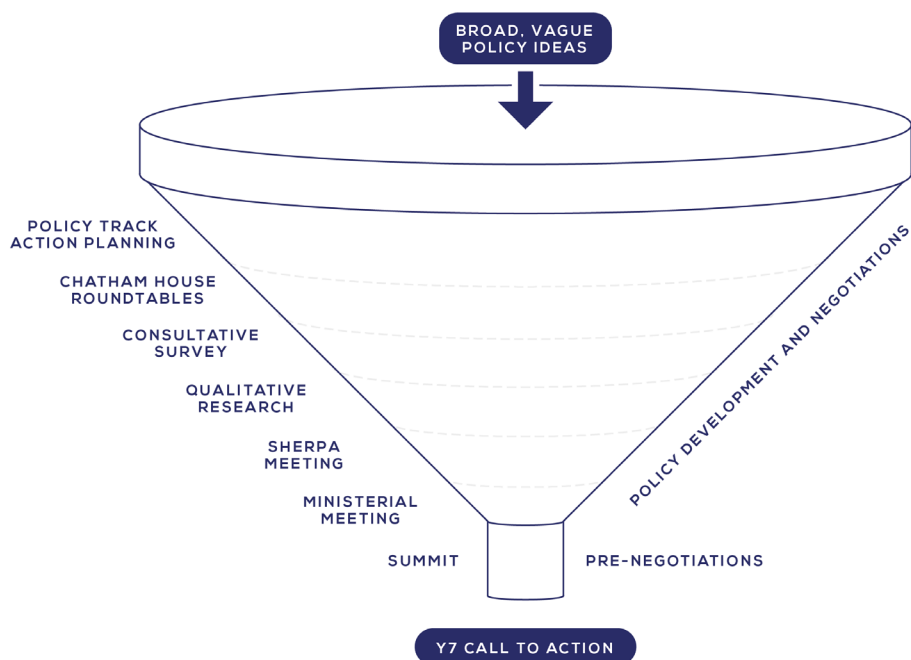
Intense policy making and negotiation process to select streamlined recommendations

In terms of policy development, FLN adopted a 'funnelling' process which was explained to the Delegates at Basecamp:

- Starting by broadly exposing the Delegates and Youth Forum members to a wide range of speakers and information, helping them to understand the big issues that the world faces in relation to each policy track, through interactive seminars and events
- Asking the Delegates and Youth Forum to select three 'sub-themes' for each policy track, through public consultation and dialogue with each other
- Asking the delegates to develop three policy recommendations per sub-theme, achieved through intense negotiations.

Much of the first two bullet points have already been covered (see 'Extensive training programme') but the final element - the negotiation process - warrants further attention.

The funnelling process



The negotiation phase began immediately after Ascent Camp under the guidance of Team Sherpa and ran for five weeks until the Summit on 8th-9th May 2021. Negotiations took place in 2 hour blocks, with each Track choosing their 2 hour timing to suit their personal schedules. The desired outcome was to agree three policy recommendations for each of the three sub-themes they had agreed upon for their track.

The process began in 'Week 0' with each delegate presenting their two key policy recommendations on each of the three themes to their fellow delegates. Each subsequent week (Weeks 1, 2 and 3) was a detailed discussion focusing on each sub-theme in turn, where delegates voted between them on which policy recommendations they wanted to prioritise, and then negotiated the exact language that they wanted to see in the final communiqué, based on the consultations they had done with youth in their constituency, their research and the conversations with other delegates, experts (both civil servants and academic) and the Youth Forum.

The priorities for negotiations were:

- Delegates were clear on the impact they were seeking to achieve
- Everyone felt that their voices were heard and treated each other with the utmost respect during the sessions
- Ultimately, everyone had the most enjoyable process, and reached the most impactful product possible.

The negotiations culminated in the two 'Private' Summit Days:

- **8 May 2021: Challenge** - the Delegates received final feedback on their recommendations from experts on Future Generations (Casey Caines - Medicine Box Project, Andrew Charles - Welsh Government, Cat Tully - School of International Futures and Adam Sharpe - Metafuture School; as well as final input from the Y7 Youth Forum. Both added significant value to the delegates proposals and brought fresh perspectives into the room - of lived experience and an academic and practitioner application of the Future Generation lens - stress testing the recommendations ahead of exposing them to the world and giving the young people the chance to practice robustly defending them to senior and influential figures
- **9 May 2021** - here, the delegates had their final negotiation session, and voted on the final suite of recommendations. This year, in recognition of their role in supporting the communiqué's development, the Youth Forum were offered the opportunity to put their name to the communiqué, empowering them and giving them a stake in ensuring the communiqué's success. The Y7 Communiqué was unanimously passed by all Delegates and Youth Forum.
- Delegates and Youth Forum members also heard from two campaigns experts (Kate Levine and Rod Cartwright), learning more about advocacy and how to land clear communications messages.



Evaluation of the negotiation process

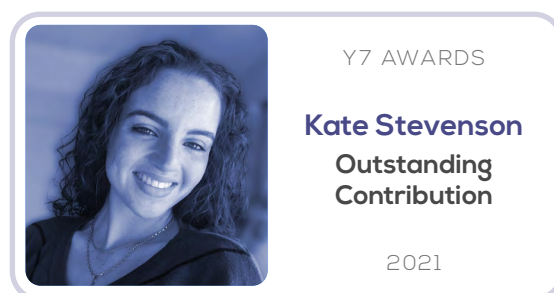
As a result we were able to:

- Deliver a concise, consistent and professional communiqué with high quality policy recommendations:
 - » The result was 9 recommendations per track, and 36 recommendations in total for the Y7 2021, all of which were unanimously approved by the Delegates and Youth Forum members;
 - » Nearly three quarters (22/30) of Y7 participants felt that the negotiation process helped to arrive at impactful recommendations;
- Engage in a positive, engaging and inclusive process to reach these recommendations, particularly through consultation with experts, and structured and intense negotiations.
 - » Two thirds (20/30) of Y7 participants surveyed felt that the negotiation process was somewhat or very inclusive.

One of the biggest challenges faced in the negotiation process was uncertainty over the role the Youth Forum should or could play in negotiations, as it was the first year the Youth Forum had been introduced. Initially, the Youth Forum had been intended to support all delegates by bringing in real-world lived experience of the policy tracks. This meant that, throughout the early stages of the 'policy funneling process' the Youth Forum were invited and indeed encouraged to contribute alongside and equally to all of the Delegates.



However, the international (e.g. non-UK) Delegates voiced concerns that the overwhelmingly British nature of the Youth Forum meant that they sometimes felt outnumbered. They were also concerned that the Youth Forum sometimes voiced alternative perspectives to their U.K. delegate counterparts - whilst this was the original intention, it did also cause confusion and add additional voices into an already loud and complicated debate. These concerns reached a peak in the run up to the negotiations, as international delegates were concerned about how decisions would be reached and relationships built when, in their view, there were up to 6 U.K. perspectives, alongside the 7 other international positions.



As a result, the Future Leaders Network reoriented the Youth Forum role to focus specifically on supporting the U.K. delegate during the negotiations. Every Youth Forum member had the opportunity to observe at least one session. All Youth Forum were invited to the presentation session, and then 1-2 designated members attended the negotiations for specific sub-themes. The Youth Forum views were fed into the UK delegate between sessions.

Whilst this certainly clarified the process and removed the possibility of multiple U.K. positions and multiple U.K. negotiators in each Track discussion, some members of the Youth Forum were unhappy with the limited role in the final, formal negotiations. Whilst the Youth Forum were never intended to have the same level of authority as Delegates - as they originally had not been selected to represent a country, and had no formal role in the process - it was clear there had been some miscommunication leading to misunderstanding about their potential role. As a result, there was some variation in the feedback on the inclusiveness of the negotiation process, with over three quarters (15/19) of the Delegates surveyed finding that the negotiation process was somewhat or very inclusive, whereas only half of Youth Forum members surveyed felt the same.

In future, the recommendation is for the Youth Forum to play a distinct role from the outset (instead of mirroring the Delegates) to clarify the advisory (not decision making) nature of their role, and also for each country to have their own Youth Forum.

Y7 Communiqué

After months of consultation with young people all around the world, and weeks of negotiation between the international youth delegates, the Y7 2021 Communiqué was finally complete.



The youth recommendations focussed on “Making Waves for Future Generations” - calling on world leaders to better involve young people in decision making, and to actively consider the long-term implications of decisions made today on the young people of tomorrow.

The communiqué included a ‘Call to action’ which recommended that G7 leaders protect and support future generations by:

- Strengthening global early warning systems, and co-designing risk reduction programs with climate-vulnerable regions and marginalised communities by 2022;
- Jointly developing indicators of economic performance that supplement GDP with integrated well-being, sustainability, and inclusivity outcomes;

- Achieving universal connectivity by 2025 on their territories and by 2030 worldwide, and by embedding digital literacy in all curriculum areas for all learners;
- Tackling mental health stigma by changing educational curricula, launching targeted campaigns and training young people so that they can adequately support their peers during mental health crises.



The full communiqué (which can be found [here](#)) included 36 policy recommendations across the four themes of Climate and the Environment; Digital and Technology; the Economy and Health.

The aim for the communiqué was not only to push for multilateral change at the G7 summit, but also to drive change with decision makers in government, civil society and beyond.

Y7 Summit 2021 14-15 May 2021

The Y7 Communiqué was officially published at the Y7 Summit, which took place on 14 - 15 May 2021. The Summit was both a celebration of youth voice and a platform for change, with the communiqué used to start conversations around key policy themes, to inspire young people to imagine what a better world for future generations could look like, and to encourage people to sign the document online in order to put weight behind its recommendations at the G7 and beyond.

It saw the delegates presenting their recommendations to the G7 world leaders, Government officials and to the public.



Sponsored by



5 U.K. Cabinet Ministers and over 50 speakers attended the Summit, with over 1,000 young people signing up to attend on our bespoke Y7 virtual platform. Over 2,000 young people streamed the

summit online - a huge platform for the Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum to create change.

The public days of the Summit were sponsored by AstraZeneca.

Day 1 - Calling the world to action

The youth delegates used this day to call the government, civil society and the public to action by presenting their policy recommendations to the world.

The day began with an interview between the Y7 Chair Sophie Daud and the U.K. Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP.

The Delegates then privately presented their Communiqué to 5 U.K. Government Ministers - including four Cabinet members - and several senior policy makers, and sought immediate feedback from them.

Names of Ministers delegates presented to:

- The Right Honourable Therese Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
- Baroness Barran, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Civil Society) at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
- The Right Honourable Lord Goldsmith, Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- The Right Honourable Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- The Right Honourable Alok Sharma MP, COP26 President

Finally, the Delegates publicly presented their Communiqué to UK G7 Sherpa Jonathan Black, giving them the opportunity to advocate to the highest levels of decision making. They identified their top priority as securing a recognition of the impact of the pandemic on mental health, and the importance of committing funds to improving mental health treatment and support, to the Sherpa.

Attendees also:

- Heard a keynote speech from the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake;
- Enjoyed performances from the Welsh choir 'Only Boys Aloud' and Warrenpoint Comhaltas, a traditional music group from Northern Ireland;
- Participated in a workshop on Storytelling to Create Change by the UN World Food Programme, giving young people the tools to become advocates for Communiqué and to share their own stories.

The day closed with the Delegates advocating for Summit participants and live-streamers to sign the Y7 Communiqué. As of December 2021, over 370 young people have signed the communiqué and supported championing its messages at the highest levels of decision making.

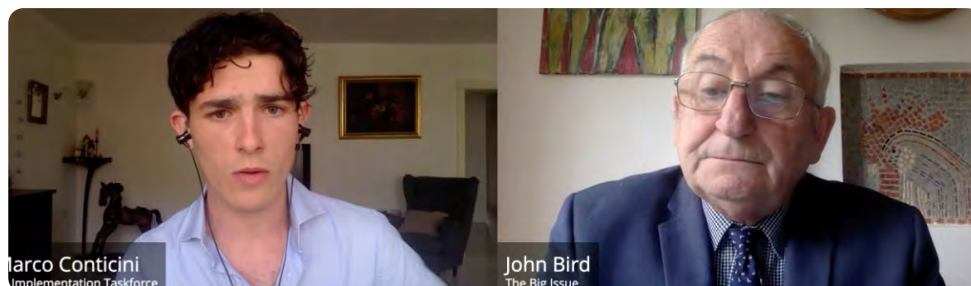
Day 2 - Driving forward change and celebrating youth voice

The final day of the summit was all about celebrating the youth voice and empowering young people to create their own change in the world, with the young people leaving the day feeling ready and inspired to start #makingwaves for Future Generations. Keynote speeches were interspersed with networking opportunities and roundtable discussions, and showcased all of the incredible

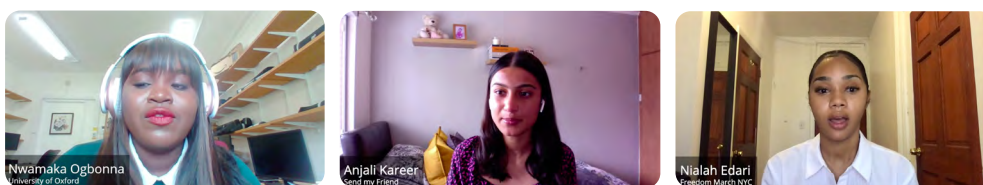
work of the entire Y7 2021 delegation through a 'Celebration of Successes' Award Ceremony. The awards are distributed throughout the Evaluation Report.

Attendees:

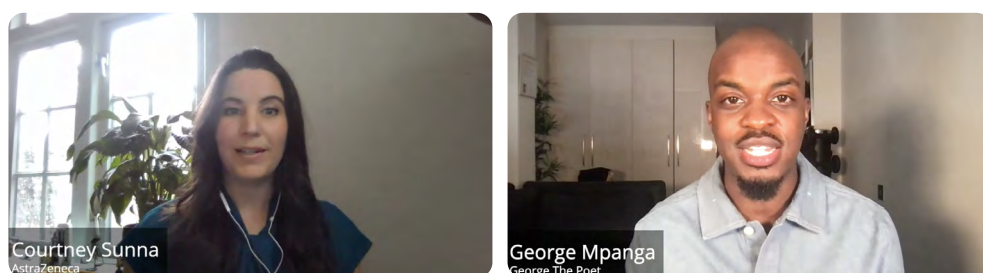
- Heard a fascinating keynote speech from Lord John Bird who brought back the importance of our theme of Future Generations.



- Engaged with a panel of youth activists, with representatives from Black Lives Matter, refugee camps and Indian social enterprises to inspire and guide attendees; Nwamaka Chidera Ogbonna, researcher and writer, Nialah Edari, Freedom March NYC, Malish James, founder and Executive Director of Afri-Youth Network, Kaushal Shah, founder and CEO of envOPAP, Anjali Kareer, Campaign Champion, 'Send My Friend to School'



- Participated in a Q&A with a representative from AstraZeneca (the Y7 Summit Sponsor)'s Global Community Investment & Philanthropy team, Courtney Sunna



- Enjoyed a spoken word performance from award-winning artist George the Poet, about making change as a young person.

Evaluation of the Summit

Throughout, we ensured that the whole summit kept with our core mission of being the most inclusive, developmental and impactful Y7 summit.

INCLUSION

To ensure the summit was inclusive as possible, we:

- Centered young people, prioritising sessions where Delegates and Youth Forum members were panelists presenting their own recommendations to the public and decision makers

- Gave young people attending the opportunity to discuss their ideas for change, to meet other young changemakers across the world, and to interact with the speakers and guests through Q&As and a live chat function
- Ensured speakers were diverse, representing a variety of different ethnicities, genders, backgrounds and countries (with 51 speakers overall!)
- Provided 500 free tickets for the summit, the highest capacity of any engagement group, as well as live streamed (with a watch back function) for those who couldn't attend during work hours or weren't able to secure tickets
- Brought together diverse young people from across the world, including those from countries not previously involved in the Y7 (nearly two thirds Summit attendees surveyed came from countries outside of the G7 countries)

Demographics of summit attendees (for those surveyed)

- Ethnic background: 51% BAME, 36% White British, 13% preferring not to say
- Social background: half of all participants surveyed for the evaluation considered themselves from a lower socio-economic background; with this netting out slightly higher for the Y7 Summit attendees, and lower for Y7 Delegates/Youth Forum members.
- Education: 39% were in education, with 41% employed and 7% neither employed or in education
- Region: The participants surveyed came from a wide range of countries. Young people involved in the Y7 covered all regions of the UK, and all of the G7 countries were represented.

Despite our efforts, there were still elements we could have improved we make the summit more inclusive, including:

- Considering the digital divide and how we could have made the summit more accessible to those with lower digital literacy or with limited technology access
- Providing subtitles or transcripts on the Y7 Summit platform for people with hearing difficulties and translation methods for the main languages
- Working to ensure more representation of developing countries

The overwhelming majority (84%) of attendees found the Y7 Summit inclusive, with nearly half (46%) stating it was 'very inclusive' and many citing the way that the Y7 had brought together young people from different backgrounds. Participants shared with us their experiences of what made the Y7 feel inclusive or not, highlighting elements that contributed towards inclusivity and elements that could have been improved.

"I particularly liked the round table discussions as everyone was able to be included and make their voice heard!"

– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, GERMANY

"Youths who are facing with digital divides may not be able to represent their voice"

– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, MALAYSIA

"The online summit format allowed people from various backgrounds and individuals who work abroad to take part in the exercise, which is important for inclusion. Post-covid, it is worth having a discussion about keeping some parts of the summit virtual, while allowing people to have that unique in-person experience"

– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, CANADA

DEVELOPMENT

We ensured that the summit was developmental for all young people involved by:

- Offering training and workshops each day
- Giving delegates and the Youth Forum opportunities to use the skills they developed throughout the Y7 by communicating their experiences and advocating policy proposals
- Awarding recognition of Summit attendance in the form of a certificate
- Facilitating policy proposal discussions and debates
- Connecting young leaders and changemakers from across the world
- Empowering the Y7 taskforce to design and deliver an international youth summit

As a result, young people who attended the Summit reported developing in the following areas:

1. Agency and empowerment

Young people taking part in the Y7 repeatedly reported a range of benefits in terms of personal growth and empowerment. All groups' confidence in their abilities as a leader improved from 41% to 71% before and after taking part in the Y7 Summit. Furthermore, participation in the Y7 made participants feel like their views are taken more seriously and they can bring about a positive change in society.

“The Y7 did very well because it helped to command the leader in me to take action. I benefited ...for I have meet young leaders in every nation and got a chance to have a global network”
– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, PHILIPPINES

2. Skills development

84% of all young people who attended the Summit who were surveyed in the Y7 evaluation reported new skills they had learnt and taken away from the experience. The top three skills developed across all young people surveyed were ‘understanding of politics and democracy’, confidence and leadership.

“The summit enlightened me that, we, the youth have infinite potential, all the things that we need in order to create a huge lasting impact is with our sight, we just need to grasp and turn it into actions that will eventually help us address the issues we have now”
– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, PHILIPPINES

IMPACT

We ensured the summit was impactful by focusing on social action and empowering young people to make change of their own, with:

- Speakers sharing their stories of how they had made grassroots change in their communities and calling young people to take action where they could
- Roundtables on driving forward change as a young person
- Platforming delegates to advocate for their policy recommendations to the highest level of decision making
- Enabling summit attendees to sign the Y7's communiqué

As a result, some of the Summit Attendees reported they had taken actions since the Y7 Summit, from advocating for the Y7 communiqué (with peers, on social media engaging in the unfolding G7 discussions) to addressing one of the world issues flagged in the communiqué, predominantly climate change and mental health. Summit Attendees also report taking action to capture more young peoples' voices in their work and empowering others to share their experiences.

“I started to read more newspapers in order to be regularly informed about what is happening in the political world. I feel more powerful to be actually able to make changes in our world. I am not too young or too inexperienced”

– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, GERMANY

In addition to personal changes to their lives, Y7 participants have also started taking pockets of social action in their communities (such as being more vocal about social issues, volunteering, joining advocacy groups, lobbying, teaching about policy track themes). Whilst the level of social action reported by the Delegates, Youth Forum and Ambassadors was higher, interestingly even some of those who simply attended the Y7 Summit have also taken small actions to support causes they believe in.

“I plan on taking some of the inspiration I got to my university to start a new initiative and get young people to share their opinions on contemporary developments and empower them to instigate change!”

– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, GERMANY

“Become a climate ambassador raising awareness about climate action and campaigning for recycling”

– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, UK

“I have started facilitating workshops such as workshops on storytelling, that youth can use their own stories to build connections”

– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, PHILIPPINES

“As I’m currently working on boosting economic potential of NGOs, we are trying to involve youth in the participatory process, to impact locally”

– SUMMIT ATTENDEE, MEXICO

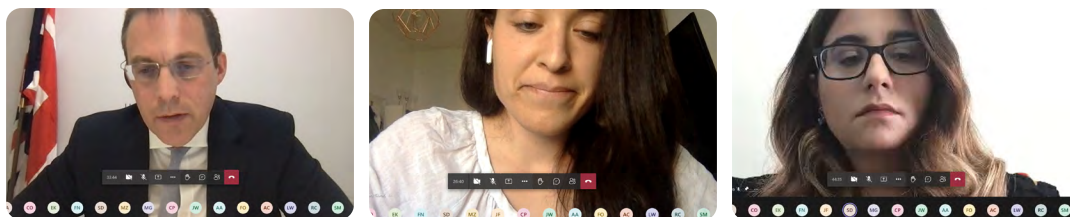
Early, frequent and participative Government engagement

Government engagement

Producing fewer, focussed recommendations was not enough to ensure the Y7 2021 was successful - it was also important to ensure that those recommendations were delivered to the decision makers in Governments, to have maximum chance of influencing Ministerial and Leader level discussions and agreements.

The Future Leaders Network worked closely with the G7 Taskforce in the U.K. Cabinet Office, building strong and productive working relationships with the officials responsible for organising and delivering the U.K. G7 Presidency. They met fortnightly throughout the first half of 2021, sharing information about priorities, outreach and next steps. This relationship was crucial in ensuring the Y7 recommendations were relevant and timely, and enabled the Future Leaders Network to identify clear mechanisms for the youth recommendations to be delivered to key decision makers.

Through the G7 Presidency Taskforce, the Future Leaders Network built fruitful relationships with the G7 and G20 Sherpa, Jonathan Black, meeting with him several times over the course of the year, as well as the G7 Sous Sherpa, Vanessa MacDougall. Regular interactions with the Sherpa and Sous Sherpa enabled the youth voice to be heard directly in the G7 Leader level negotiations, and was crucial to success.



The partnership with the G7 Presidency Taskforce also opened doors to the rest of Government. With the Cabinet Office's support, FLN connected with the relevant officials and diplomats from other Government Departments who were responsible for the policy discussions the Y7 was working on. FLN forged working collaborations with civil servants from:

- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;
- Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs;
- Cabinet Office COP26 Unit;
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport;
- Department for Work and Pensions;
- the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; and
- Her Majesty's Treasury.

Delegates were introduced to their official U.K. government policy counterparts at the Chatham House roundtables in February 2021. Their Track Sherpa supported the track to continue to engage meaningful with Government officials, and ensured that their ideas, insights and recommendations were shared with the individuals who held the negotiating power at the G7.

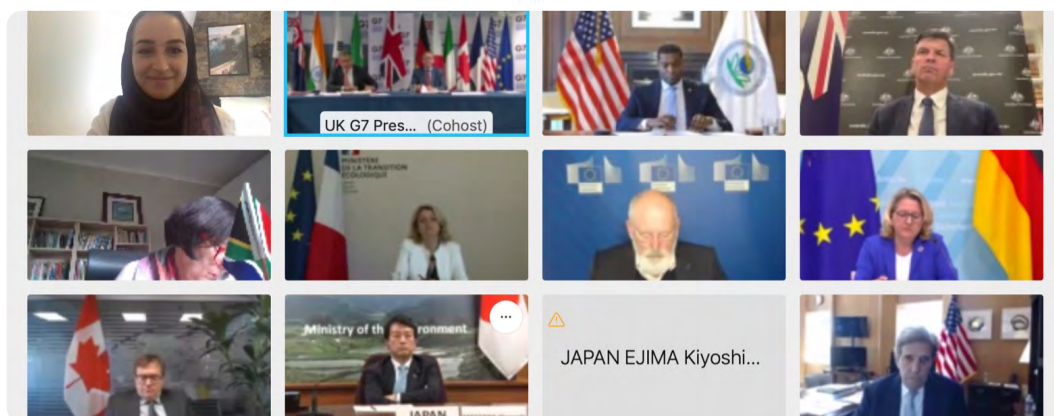
As a result, for the first time in history, Y7 Delegates were invited to attend and speak at:

- The G7 Digital and Technology Official Working Group

- The G7 Sherpa II and III meetings
- Official Employment Taskforce meetings
- The G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting



- The G7 Climate and Environment Ministerial Meeting



- G7 Roundtable with the U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer
- The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's G7 Girls' Education event
- The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Open Societies Statement engagement session

And:

- The Y7 Chair interviewed the U.K. Prime Minister to mark the launch of the Y7 Summit,
- Five U.K. Cabinet Ministers attended the Y7 Summit to receive the youth recommendations on behalf of the U.K. Presidency:
 - » The Right Honourable Therese Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
 - » Baroness Barran, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Civil Society) at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
 - » The Right Honourable Lord Goldsmith, Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 - » The Right Honourable Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
 - » The Right Honourable Alok Sharma MP, COP26 President

- The Y7 Chair and U.K. Y7 Head Delegate were invited to meet with the U.K. Prime Minister at the G7 in Cornwall, ahead of his closing round of negotiations with his international counterparts.



Images: Number 10

Participative engagement

For every interaction with Government, the Future Leaders Network aimed to ensure the young people were well-prepared, supported and confident in their strategy for the meeting (often through Pre-Meets coordinated by the fantastic Team Sherpa) whilst also giving the young people the freedom to raise whatever issues they felt were pertinent and feel authentic to themselves, their constituents and the Y7 process.

The Future Leaders Network's motto was "From engagement towards participation" - aiming to move away from simply 'listening' to young people, towards participating in a meaningful debate and dialogue with the young people to better understand their perspectives and ultimately give them a seat at the decision making table.

Evaluation of early, frequent and participative engagement

Delegates specifically commented on the high quality and frequency of their interactions with the U.K. Government, enabling them to directly influence the 2021 G7 Presidency and have maximum impact. Here's what our Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum had to say about what made the Y7 2021 Impactful:

"The Y7 had a lot of visibility this [year] and I think we were able to educate and inform our networks and communities on what is the Y7 and why youth engagement in the G7 process is so important. In terms of informing policy, I think this year, many delegates had the opportunity to take part in ministerial meetings and other high level discussions, which made our work more impactful."

"It was impactful because we had world leaders listening to our ideas"

"It was impactful because delegates were given the opportunity to meet high level policy makers"

"Being in the room where it happened, having big names come and listen and challenge"

In addition, feedback from the U.K. Government was that engagement with the Y7 was positive, insightful and very much recognised:

"It's been great to have the chance to engage with the Y7 over the past few months who have done a brilliant job of making sure the voice of young people from all G7 countries is heard as we prepare for the leaders Summit at Carbis Bay next week."

– JONATHAN BLACK, G7/G20 SHERPA, MAY 2021

Feedback from the U.K. Presidency were that it was helpful that whilst the Y7 produced a range of ambitious but realistic policy recommendations, they chose one particular priority - mental health - to champion at all times.

Director of the Wellcome Trust, senior scientific advisor and Health Track Counsellor Sir Jeremy Farrar said:

“It is inspiring to see the Y7 show initiative when it comes to offering solutions to the mental health crisis”

As a direct result of this work, mental health was included in the G7 Leaders’ [Carbis Bay Communiqué](#), with Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirming that it was there “because of what young people had been saying to him”.

World leaders recognised that “the pandemic has left no one untouched, impacting not only physical health but also mental health and social wellbeing”.

Whilst this nod to mental health was a positive first step, it fell short of the decisive action needed to tackle the ongoing mental health crisis, or the level of commitment that the communiqué was calling for.

Nevertheless, this level of impact from the Y7 on the G7 communiqué was the first of its kind in the Y7’s history, and becomes monumental when you couple it with the long term, sustained impact generated by creating a conversation between 1000s of young people on how to create change for future generations. By continuing to generate these conversations and highlight the importance of including young people in decision making, we can strive for even more concrete impact in future

In terms of recommendations for future:

- One of the challenges the Y7 faced with early engagement with the U.K. Government was a frequent request for a list of ‘youth priorities’ from very early in the G7 Presidency. As the Delegates had not yet selected their sub-themes, or agreed their policy recommendations, this was challenging. FLN managed this by bringing forward the selection of sub-themes to as early as possible in the process, but this was met with some concern by Delegates who argued that as public consultation had not yet concluded (or in some cases taken place) this was not democratic. Future Y7 hosts should consider pre-selecting the priority areas themselves, and identifying ways to bring forward policy development to as early as possible in the Y7 process to ensure maximum time for advocacy and engagement.
- Similarly, the decision to focus on mental health was taken quite late on in the day - at the Y7 Summit itself. Future Y7 hosts might consider working with delegates to select one key priority - or to replicate the priorities of previous years, if still relevant and appropriate - early on, and to champion this in all of the Government engagement meetings available to them.

Raising awareness of the Y7

Media

Throughout the process, we worked to ensure the Y7 had the biggest impact possible by communicating what young people were doing to the wider world. This was done through press releases, social media, and TV and media appearances. In total, 30 press releases were drafted, edited and sent to journalists and media publications.

Op-Eds

The media work also consisted of coordinating several op-ed pieces written by the delegates.

All the international delegates co-authored an op-ed piece per policy track. These were published on the FLN website and shared across FLN's social media platforms, and were posted to fall on specific international days related to the policy track (e.g. the Health op-ed was posted on World Health Day).

- [“Climate youth leaders call for urgent protection of forests on International Arbor Day”](#) - Climate and Environment Track
- [“Internet for the youth, by the youth, with the youth”](#) - Digital and Technology Track
- [“Y7 delegates call for G7 leaders to urgently close the gender pay gap”](#) - Economy Track
- [“Health Y7 Leaders commemorate World Health Day”](#) - Health Track

UK Y7 and Y20 delegates co-authored op-ed pieces which were then reviewed and edited by Tortoise Media

- “G7 and G20 Leaders must address the single biggest threat facing young people - the climate crisis” - Jouja Maamri
- “G7 and G20 Leaders called to take action on the digital divide, as young people are amongst those hit hardest” - by Evie Aspinall (Y7 Digital and Technology Delegate) and Gaia Reyes (Y20 Prosperity Delegate)
- “Young leaders urge that the post-pandemic economic recovery must have young people at its core” - by Dominic Jones (Y7 Economy Delegate) and Cezar Gherghel (Y20 People Delegate)
- “G7 Leaders turn a blind eye on the mental health crisis amongst young people” - by Haarith Ndiaye (Y7 Health Delegate) and Jeevan Ravindran (Y7 Health track Youth Forum Member)



Media coverage

This year, the Y7 were featured on local, national and international news – ranging from the Cornish Times to BBC News to Huffington Post Italy.

Most notably, Shunta Takino, Japan Y7 Economy Delegate, made a TV appearance on BBC World News. Additionally, Evie Aspinall, UK Y7 Digital and Technology Delegate, made a TV appearance on BBC News. Meanwhile, Emily Stevenson, Y7 Climate and the Environment track Youth Forum Member, made a TV appearance on both BBC Spotlight and Sky News.



Other notable features included a news story on the official UK GOV.UK website, a mention in The Guardian and featured multiple times on both Speaker Politics and Voice Magazine.

In terms of local media, most of the coverage was from Cornwall-based media publications due to the high interest from Cornish media on the G7 as it was hosted in Cornwall, UK this year. These included the Cornish Times, Falmouth Packet and St Ives Times & Echo.

Radio and podcast coverage

The Y7 garnered a lot of radio coverage, including being featured on Pirate FM, Coast FM, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Cornwall.



The Y7 also featured on other types of coverage, most notably on a range of podcasts, such as the British Council podcast, ME Time podcast and the Next Steps South West podcast.

Evaluation of media

The Y7 produced and pitched a high number of press releases, marking every event and significant occurrence. However, despite the regular output of press releases, it was difficult to gain traction from journalists outside of the Y7's direct connection to the G7. For example, the Y7 attracted notable media coverage during the G7, however the Y7 was unable to gain the same level of coverage around the various virtual events FLN hosted during the Y7 process (e.g. Base Camp, Ascent Camp etc.) and for the excellent quality Op-Eds produced.

In terms of recommendations for future Y7s:

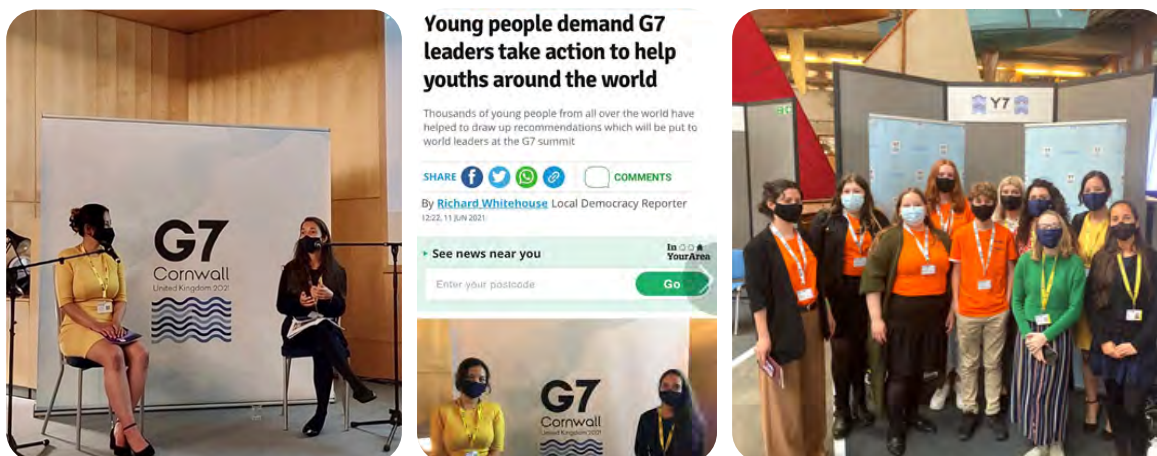
- Securing quotes from high profile and influential speakers (e.g. Track Counsellors, the U.K. Sherpa, U.K. Prime Minister) is helpful, but not enough. Having a dedicated press officer who

builds positive and constructive relationships with specific journalists is crucial;

- A substantial amount of time and energy is required to plan and produce high quality press releases and Op-Eds. Consider media and press training for all delegates, to ensure the young people are equipped with the skills they need from the start (as opposed to having a highly trained Press Officer who needs to adapt and amend content as it comes in);
- Make clear the onus of responsibility for press and media attention lies with the Delegates, not the host Presidency. FLN frequently encountered Delegates who assumed coverage would be generated by FLN, whereas the Delegates and Youth Forum could have taken more steps to build these relationships and generate content themselves.

G7 and the International Media Centre

This year, for the first time, the Y7 was invited to the International Media Centre at the G7 Summit, as one of the G7's official engagement groups. The Y7 was given an opportunity to pitch their policy recommendations and work to some of the world's top journalists and media publications in a bid to secure media coverage and highlight their policies. The Future Leaders Network also had the opportunity to lead a media briefing about the Y7.



The efforts of the Y7 team at the International Media Centre resulted in gaining media coverage whilst the G7 Summit was happening, including in City A.M., Politico, Cornwall Live and - as previously mentioned – BBC News, BBC World News and Sky News. Other media activity done during the G7 Summit included meeting and interacting with 'Y7 News Cornwall', a local Cornish group led by former journalists mentoring young aspiring journalists in Cornwall.

Evaluation of the International Media Centre

The Y7 received significantly notable coverage, despite competing with other headlines and groups during the G7 Summit due to the professional nature of the team, who were dynamic, friendly and enthusiastic, despite the lack of experience for the Y7 at the Internal Media Centre.

The main success from the International Media Centre was the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's commitment to push G7 leaders to include a statement on mental health "because of what young people had been saying to him". As a result of the collective work of the Y7 delegation, 'mental' health was included in the G7 leaders [Carbis Bay Communiqué](#).

Y7 Side Event 12 June 2021

On Saturday 12th June, alongside the G7 Summit, the Future Leaders Network hosted a Side Event at Penryn campus in Cornwall. The Side Event was generously sponsored by the University of Exeter.

Over 50 young people from the area and afar came together to connect, learn about the G7 and Y7 and develop through training workshops.



Supported by



The Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum presented their experiences of the Y7, how it worked and what (and why) their policy recommendations were.

The day also involved:

- A keynote speech from the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter
- A panel about why youth participation and leadership is important and how leaders, businesses, institutions and individuals can nurture it; with Toby Parkins - Cornwall Chamber of Commerce, Margaret De Valois - BBC Academy for expert TV presenters and Simon Cohen - broadcaster.

- A workshop from Elliot Kay training the young people on how to communicate with confidence.

Evaluation of the Y7 Side Event

This was the first in person event of the Y7 2021 process, and as such, was a very exciting occasion. It provided opportunities for young people to connect with each other, learn more about themselves and gave them actionable things to take forward.

Several participants commented on how the experience was ‘life-changing’ and enjoyed meeting new peers and learning new skills.

The Y7 Side Event was definitely a highlight of the G7 experience.

 <p>Y7 AWARDS</p> <p>Mohammed-Hadi Osman Youth Forum Team Player Award</p> <p>2021</p>	 <p>Y7 AWARDS</p> <p>Ayesha Farrah Spirited Problem Solver</p> <p>2021</p>
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Empowering Young People to Deliver Change

To aim to deliver a lasting legacy beyond the G7 Summit, the Future Leaders Network put an emphasis this year on social action; empowering young people to take small local action where they can, and the power of this to make a difference.

Y7 Summit workshops

The Future Leaders Network hosted a range of workshops at the Y7 Summit designed to support the attendees to develop their own action plan for making changes in their local communities. This included:

- A panel of youth activists, with representatives from Black Lives Matter, refugee camps and Indian social enterprises to inspire and guide attendees; Gioacchino Gargano, Henry Makiwa, Cassandra Prena.
- A workshop from the UN World Food Programme on how to use storytelling to deliver change.

Post-Summit Initiatives

To encourage social action, each of the Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum were tasked with designing and implementing a Post-Summit Initiative. The intention was for Delegates to take responsibility for one policy recommendation from their Communiqué, and commit to taking personal action either at a grassroots, local, national or international level to see it come to fruition.

The Post-Summit Initiative was also established to enable and empower the Y7 participants to continue their leadership journeys by taking action based upon their Y7 experience and bringing the 2021 communiqué to life.

We asked the Delegates and Youth Forum to consider:

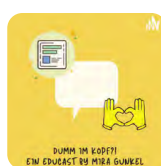
- Which policy recommendation from the [Y7 Communiqué](#) would be taken forward and why? (Purpose)
- How will an inclusive team be created when the post-summit initiative is delivered? (People)
- Who will need to be influenced for the post-summit initiative to be successful? (Power)
- How will success be measured?

G7 on Twitter

Johannes Röder integrated his initiative with his studies and aimed at analysing the Twitter conversations around the G7 Summit 2021 with a focus on the influence of the Engagement Groups, which developed into his bachelor thesis.

Hear more [here](#)!

Tackling Mental Health Stigma through Educational Podcasts



Mira Gunkel addressed the problem of Mental Health stigma, which stems directly from her role training to be a child psychotherapist, where she experiences the reality of mental health care in Germany everyday.

“Even in 2021 we live in a world where people are ashamed to communicate mental health issues... shame comes from stigma and stigma from ignorance”

Mira aims to educate future generations through a podcast, which is accessible (free, many young people have a digital device) and relevant (young people commonly exist in an online space) using her knowledge from her professional training. Next, Mira plans to connect with schools to develop workshops on this topic.

Listen to Mira’s podcast [here](#) (in German).

- Learn core skills and knowledge that they would need for their Initiatives to be successful; and
- Undertake leadership training so they could reflect on their Y7 experience to date and how that could support their career development going forward.

Y7 participants presented their post-summit initiatives to expert guests and their peers, in the form of a viva (an examination in which a student answers questions in speech rather than writing) and received tailored constructive feedback to improve their initiatives. This not only resulted in improved and refined initiatives, but we received feedback that the young people were inspired by each other's initiatives and able to join one another's movements if they desired.



The participants also benefitted from three practical skills focussed workshops for their own personal growth, all delivered by the Future Leaders Network:

- Coaching techniques;
- Personal Purpose workshop;
- Behaviour Change and Critical Thinking workshop

John Whitmore's GROW Model

G OAL	The goal is the end point, where you want to be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you want to get out of this conversation? • What are you looking to achieve?
R EALITY	The current reality is where you are now.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are you now? • What are the obstacles you face to achieving your goal?
O PTIONS	The options are paths you could take to reach your goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could you do to overcome those obstacles?
W ILL	This is identifying the way forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions will you take to achieve your goal?

Y7
UK 2021

Doing the hard, context-specific thinking: A behavioural tool

Susan Michie's COM-B tool views behaviour as resulting from interaction between 3 conditions:

CAPABILITY	MOTIVATION	OPPORTUNITY
 Do I have the right knowledge to do it? Do I have the right skills to do it? Am I physically and mentally able to do it?	 Do I believe I should do it? Do I want to do it? Do I have the necessary habits in place to do it?	 Do I have the resources to do it? Will the system or environment allow me to do it? Will the people around me help or hinder me in doing it?

Following easing of COVID-19 restrictions by the U.K. Government in the summer of 2021, Altitude Camp was delivered in a hybrid format in mid October, not only allowing young people to reconvene after the Y7 process and summer from across the world online, but also enabling several young people to meet in person at FLN's London office.

"I think the Y7 did an excellent job of mobilising, inspiring and encouraging a group of young people from fairly diverse backgrounds and circumstances. I benefited immensely as it really boosted my confidence in all areas of my life and quite frankly gave me something to live for during the worst of lockdowns this year."

– YOUTH FORUM MEMBER, UK

Evaluation of empowering young people to deliver change

It is too early to evaluate the impact of the Y7 Delegates and Youth Forum members' Post-Summit Initiatives. Further evidence on the actions taken, the number of people reached and the changes delivered will be gathered in early 2022.

Pillar Three: Conclusion

IMPACT: The Y7 2021 activities successfully campaigned for mental health to be included in the G7 Leaders' declaration.

Its impact was driven by:

- A highly refined and impactful 'Call to Action', achieved through
 - » An intensive policy development and negotiation process
 - » A clear and concise Y7 Communiqué
 - » A successful launch at the Y7 Summit 2021, with a range of speakers
- Early and frequent interactions with U.K. Government officials, diplomats and Ministers, resulting in young people speaking for the first time in history at official G7 events and securing 5 U.K. Government Ministers at the Y7 Summit
- Regular and high quality media activity, resulting in written, broadcast and radio coverage across the U.K., and internationally
- Concerted attempts to empower young people to deliver changes in their local communities, including supporting Delegates and Youth Forum members to design and deliver Post-Summit Initiatives through a bespoke Altitude Camp.

CHAPTER 6

Outreach





Introduction to Outeach

To deliver a lasting legacy to their 2021 Presidency, the Future Leaders Network undertook an outreach programme to raise awareness of the G7/Y7 and enable young people to feel better engaged in the democratic processes of this multilateral group. For future Y7s to be inclusive, impactful and developmental, young people across the United Kingdom need to:

- Know what the G7 is and understand that the Y7 exists;
- Have trust in the democratic process, and that their views can and should be heard; and
- Have the skills and leadership capability they need to participate in those processes effectively.

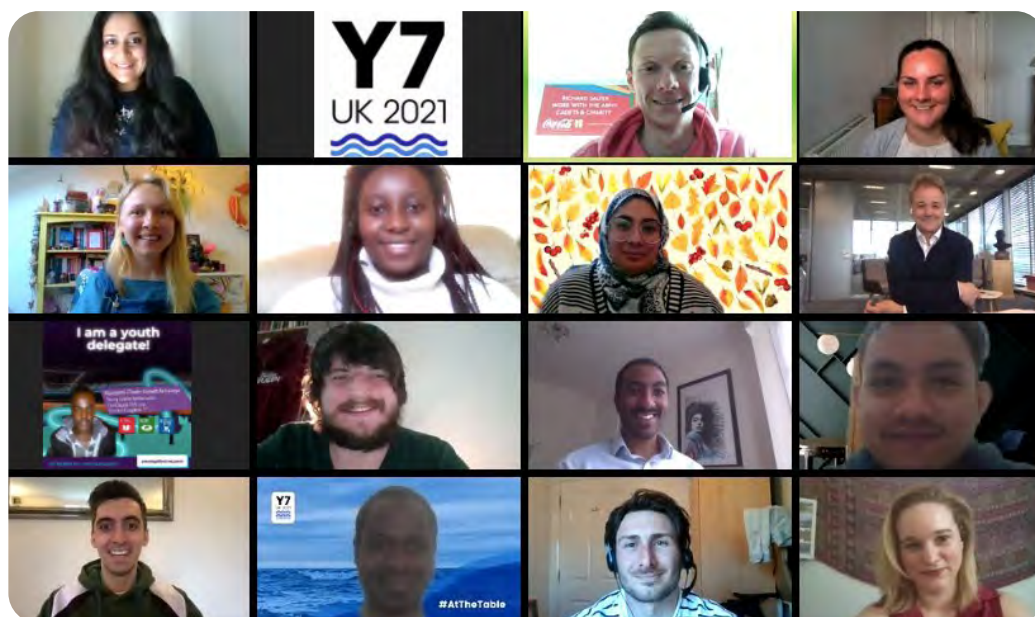
The Future Leaders Network achieved this by:

- Running the National #AtTheTable Conversation from March - May 2021
- Developing a Mock G7 Programme, which enabled secondary school aged students across the country to participate in a negotiation simulation at the same time as world leaders took to their seats in June 2021; and
- Accepted a wide range of speaking opportunities and engagements, reaching a wide range of young people and explaining what the G7 and Y7 were, and their successes.

National #AtTheTable Conversation

To increase awareness and understanding of the Y7 and G7 Presidency, the U.K. Government G7 Taskforce provided grant funding for the Future Leaders Network to host the National #AtTheTable Conversation.

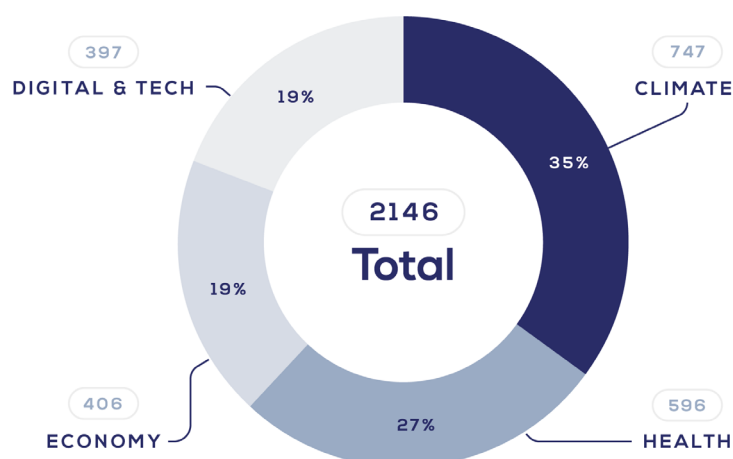
This involved the training of 217 young people aged 17 - 30 from across the United Kingdom on how to host inclusive, insightful and impactful conversations. These young people then went out and held conversations with their friends, family, peers and colleagues about the G7 and the big issues under discussion. Young people had the opportunity to give their opinion on what change they wanted to see being made by World leaders.



The Ambassadors then captured the findings from their conversations in a short form. This form was then analysed, and the full findings can be found [here](#).

Evaluation of the #AtTheTable Programme

Collectively, the Ambassadors hosted 418 conversations with 2,146 young people across the United Kingdom about the G7.



The National Conversation was successful in:

- Building understanding - 81% of the over 2,000 young people taking part in the National Conversation said they understood more about the G7 after taking part.
- Increasing trust in democracy - 71% of the over 2,000 young people taking part in the National Conversation said that they felt more engaged in democracy.

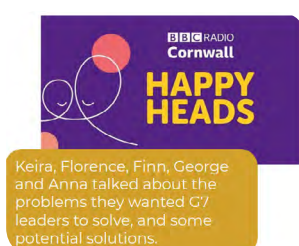
In addition, the Ambassadors (the young people who facilitated the dialogues) reported:

- Skills development - with the top skills developed including their ability to inform policy; listening skills; facilitation skills and understanding of politics and democracy
- Personal growth - the Ambassadors who responded to our survey experienced a 20% increase in their confidence in their ability as a leader as a direct result of participating in the programme. They also reported increased self-efficacy and confidence that they could take action to change the world; and
- Social action - many of the Ambassadors reporting taking action in their personal lives to either tackle the subject they discussed, or to further engage young people in their communities in democracy.

"I gained confidence and I learnt about how strongly many other young people feel about issues which affect them and that they feel despondent that their views aren't heard and won't bring change - I personally have made it my mission to change this and ensure young people's views are accurately represented"

– Y7 #ATTTHETABLE AMBASSADOR, WEST MIDLANDS

The Ambassador programme received media interest from the BBC Radio Cornwall Youth Panel. These young people from Cornwall hosted a conversation about the G7, which was recorded and aired on BBC Radio Cornwall at the same time as the Y7 Summit in May, reaching an even greater number of young people and helping them to engage in the concepts and ideas that the G7 was discussing in 2021.



The #AtTheTable National Conversation is an effective methodology on multiple levels:



Successfully **raises awareness** of the Y7 & G7 amongst young people



Increases trust in democracy



Yields **valuable insight** which can be used in informing the Y7 of prevalent issues to young people and the changes they want to see



Builds skills & increases confidence, personal growth and social action for the Ambassadors involved

Mock G7 Summit

The Future Leaders Network partnered with the educational charity Young Citizens to develop a 'Mock G7' programme for secondary school students. A resource was designed to help teachers prepare and run a mock G7 Summit in the classroom (face-to-face or virtually).

The resource was split over three sections where students:

1. Explored the purpose and history of the G7 and Y7
2. Took on a country position and developed policy recommendations on what their country wanted to happen to protect the world's oceans
3. Participated in a mock G7 debate and voted on three recommendations to appear in their Mock G7 communiqué.

The resource was first piloted in five schools across the UK. It was then promoted via an extensive digital marketing campaign. Teachers were encouraged to use the Mock G7 resource between 7th-25th June, around the time of the G7 Summit taking place in Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

Mock G7, Carbis Bay

The Future Leaders Network facilitated a Mock G7 with students from St Ives' School in Carbis Bay on the 14th June.



This event was particularly special as it took place in the G7 venue, a day after the G7 itself finished, and involved students from the local community. Students were able to literally sit at the table where world leaders had been discussing their own priorities.

The Mock G7 session followed the same format as the programme adopted by the rest of the country, with students first learning about the G7 and Y7; then researching their country's position; and concluding with a negotiation simulation. The negotiation was chaired by FLN's Chief Operating Officer Alister Lobo.

The final negotiation resulted in all Mock G7 'countries' agreeing that: "Whaling is bad"

This exciting event attracted significant media coverage on BBC News, BBC Radio Cornwall St Ives Local and the event was tweeted about by the official G7 Twitter account.

Evaluation of the Mock G7 programme

35,460² young people were reached through the Mock G7 programme, including 437 teachers from 399 schools (336 in England; 22 Scotland; 8 Wales; 11 Northern Ireland & 22 international schools).

Overall, the program was successful in:

- **Building awareness:** 90% of students believed that 'taking part in this programme increased my understanding of the G7, its goals and shared values'; and 85% reported that they increased their understanding of the Y7;
- **Increased interest in democracy:** 60% of students said that taking part in this programme increased their interest in global politics;
- **Skill development:** teachers reported that their students gained a range of skills, with the top skills including: listening, communication, debating, decision making and critical thinking.

The Mock G7 programme improved young people's understanding of the G7 Summit, empowered them politically and supported them to develop key, transferable skills. Young Citizens summarised the further impacts of the Mock G7 programme [here](#).

If you're interested in participating, you can register to receive the free resource [here](#).

"My favourite part of the programme was presenting arguments and rebuttals for and against the topic as it was a thrilling experience that deepened my understanding of how global politics works."

– STUDENT, 14, GEMS WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, DUBAI

"Our students gained invaluable insights into the process of the G7 negotiations and how important international relations are in making global improvements for future generations. When students feel connected and a part of what is in the news, this has a huge impact on them and makes it more relevant."

– ASSISTANT HEAD, JASON WEB, RICHARD LANDER SCHOOL

2 This is based on previous research conducted by Young Citizens, which has shown that on average a teacher will use one of their resources with three classes of thirty students.

Speaking Engagements

Harvard Law Fashion Lab

Four of the climate and environment delegates hosted a workshop for Harvard students as part of the Harvard Law Fashion Lab in March 2021. They aimed to recreate the Y7 negotiations and give the students the opportunity to learn about the challenges and compromises required in international decision making.

OSCE Group of Friends of Youth and Security

FLN was invited to speak at the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe Group of Friends of Youth and Security meeting in March 2021, to share best practice on youth participation in decision making.

YouthSpeak Forum, AIESEC

FLN's CEO Sophie Daud was invited to deliver the closing keynote at the Annual AIESEC YouthSpeak Forum, to talk about the Y7's experience of "Bridging the gap between youth and decision makers".

"To me, the best thing she said was when she mentioned that the youth should have an impact on decision makers by being bold enough to make suggestions and work side by side with them or by working hand in hand to show them that we are capable enough to make the needed change with or without them"

– PARTICIPANT FROM THE AIESEC YOUTHSPEAK FORUM

Other G7 Engagement Groups

Y7 participants were invited to speak at or participate in the Civil Society 7 Summit and the Labour 7 Summit. This increased exposure of the Y7's recommendations across a broad range of industries.

One Young World

German delegates Mira Gunkel and Johannes Roder were invited to speak at the 2021 One Young World Summit in July 2021. They delivered a workshop to young leaders on how to deliver youth-led systems change, attended by 25 young leaders from around the world.



Outreach: Conclusion

The Future Leaders Network successfully engaged at least 40,000 young people in their outreach programme throughout the course of their Y7 Presidency, through the National #AtTheTable Ambassador programme, their Mock G7 programme and a range of speaking and presentation engagements.

Their outreach activity successfully increased a wider range of young people's understanding of the G7 and Y7; increased their engagement and trust in democracy; and built young people's transferable skills for their future careers and possibly international diplomacy.

They also built exposure and awareness of the Y7 through a range of inspiring and empowering speaking opportunities.

CHAPTER 7

Conclusion





Conclusion

The Future Leaders Network set out to deliver the most inclusive, developmental and impactful Y7 in history, by embedding these three core pillars at the heart of their action.

They delivered a monumental step change in youth participation:

- **Inclusion:** 10,000 young people's voices contributed to this year's Y7, and the introduction of the Youth Forum and a robust recruitment process meant that the Y7 participants were increasingly diverse and representative of youth;
- **Development:** the young people who participated in the Y7 reported an increase in capability across all skill domains surveyed, with 9/10 participants reporting they gained new skills. Participants also reported, on average a 20% increase in their confidence as a leader, as a result of taking part - over just six months!
- **Impact:** the Y7, for the first time in history, influenced the G7 Leaders' Declaration, seeking recognition of the importance of mental health at an international level.
- **Outreach:** the Future Leaders Network engaged over 40,000 young people through their National #AtTheTable Conversation, their Mock G7 programme and multiple speaking engagements - delivering a lasting legacy for the Y7 in the United Kingdom

The Y7 Closing Ceremony took place on Monday 6 December 2021, concluding with a keynote speech from Dr Alex George, the U.K. Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Ambassador, who congratulated the Y7 participants on their success at this year's G7:



"I'm working closely with the government to give young people a voice in government and help make mental health an absolute priority in policy making. I'm delighted to meet with other young changemakers who share this passion and I applaud the Y7 on their successful campaign to secure world leaders' acknowledgement of the impact of the pandemic on youth mental health at this year's G7."

– DR ALEX GEORGE, A&E AND TV DOCTOR AND THE U.K. PRIME MINISTER'S YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AMBASSADOR

Whilst more remains to be done to ensure that future Y7s are truly inclusive, developmental and impactful - as set out in this comprehensive evaluation - it is clear that this year's activity has shown that youth participation is crucial for democracy.

The vast majority of Y7 participants and Summit attendees agreed that:

- Participation in the Y7 made me feel that my views were more represented (62%)
- Participation in the Y7 made me feel that my views were taken more seriously (66%)
- Participation in the Y7 made me feel that I can bring about a positive change in society (68%)

71% of the 2146 young people participating in the National Conversation said that yes, they did feel more engaged in democracy after taking part.

Impact on trust and satisfaction with democracy

A student from the University of Cambridge Masters in Public Policy worked with the Future Leaders Network as their academic placement from Jan - June 2021. The student researched some of the reasons for young people's current dissatisfaction with democracy, and explored whether increased youth participation could tackle this trend. It recommended key actions for governments and the G7 to take to better embed youth participation in decision making, and shared best practices - many of which were adopted by the Y7. To find out more about this research, please click [here](#).

What's next?

Post-Summit initiatives

For the Y7 participants (Delegates and Youth Forum members), whilst the Y7 is over, their leadership journey has just begun. The participants are now being supported to deliver their Post-Summit Initiatives, delivering grassroots, community change at a global level.

The participants will be asked to complete an impact form in mid 2022, so FLN can follow up with the impact of each initiative.

The Future Leaders Network is committed to championing the fantastic work of our Y7 participants through as many channels as possible in order to inspire young people across the G7 nations and the world that they too can lead and make a positive difference, big or small, for the social causes that they are most passionate about.

Y7 2022 and beyond

The Future Leaders Network officially handed over the Y7 Presidency to the German selection (DNK) and organising committee (IJAB) at the Y7 Closing Ceremony on Monday 6 December.

FLN is also producing a 'Playbook' on how to host a Y7 Summit, for all international organising committees to refer to in future years, to ensure the extensive learnings from their Presidency are captured and shared.

FLN intends to champion the Y7 2021 Communiqué and key policy priorities around the economy, health, climate and the environment, and digital and technologies during future Y7 and Y20 summits, ensuring that the incredible analysis and policy development generated this year is not forgotten in future years.

Leadership Development

The Future Leaders Network's purpose is to discover and develop the next generation of leaders in the United Kingdom and the world. We will therefore be developing the core training programme used throughout the Y7, focussing on the areas of Purpose, People and Power, along with more, and will deliver training to young people across the country in all sectors to support them in becoming more effective and impactful leaders.

[Get in touch here](#) if you are interested in being part of our leadership journey, would like us to deliver training for you, or know of an opportunity for us to make an impact.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the Y7 2021 and made everything we did a reality.

The Design Working Group, for developing a foundation for the Y7 2021, ensuring we aimed to be inclusive, developmental and impactful; Lottie Myers, Tom Matthew, Joana Baptista, Cameron Whiteley, Sophie Shields, Mohammad Mahdi Karim, Florence Goodrham, Sancha Conway Holroyd, Megan Doherty and Alexandra Otubanjo.

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To Opinium for engaging with a diverse range of youth voices for our consultations.

To each speaker and guest who spoke at one of our events, delivered training or supported our young people:

- During the recruitment campaign: Rt Hon David Miliband, Sir Jon Cunliffe, Julia Kulik, Dr Tristen Naylor, Spogmay Ahmed, Rt Hon Theresa May.

- Launch: Jonathan Black and previous Y7 Delegates.
- Basecamp: Jacob Ellis, Sarah Allan, Jerome Harvey-Agyei, Mete Coban, Jill Rutter, Sophie Wilson.
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- Ascent Camp: Mark Thompson, Elliot Kay and Sophie Howe.
- Summit - private days: Casey Caines, Andrew Charles, Cat Tully, Adam Sharpe.
- Summit - public: the Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP, Jayathma Wickramanayake, Only Boys Aloud, Warrenpoint Comhaltas, Lord John Bird, George the Poet, Gioacchino Gargano, Henry Makiwa, Cassandra Prena from the UN World Food Programme; Nwamaka Chidera Ogbonna, researcher and writer, Nialah Edari, Freedom March NYC, Malish James, founder and Executive Director of Afri-Youth Network, Kaushal Shah, founder and CEO of envoPAP, Anjali Kareer, Campaign Champion, 'Send My Friend to School'.
- Y7 Side event: Toby Parkins, Margaret De Valois and Simon Cohen.
- Altitude: Amil Khanzada, Ameenah Begum, Rowan Armstrong.
- Closing Ceremony and FLN Annual Conference 2021: Dr Alex George

Identity for providing us with a platform to host the Y7 Summit.

Astrazeneca for sponsoring our Summit and the Future Leaders Network.

Y7 News Cornwall for supporting young people at the G7 and getting involved.

The University of Exeter for working with us during the Y7 Side Event and hosting us and the young people who attended. To students from Mayn Collective for filming and capturing the Side Event.

To BF Adventure for allowing us to camp at your site and use your facilities and Cornwall Scouts for loaning us camping equipment for the weekend for the Y7 Side Event.

To Cornwall Council for your endless support during the G7 and enthusiasm for promoting the youth voice: Rachel Delourme, Katherine Ennever, Janine Bisson and Hannah Tallis.

The #AtTheTable Ambassadors for your drive to have engaging conversations with young people across the country.

To Young Citizens for working with us on the Mock G7 Programme.

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To our Future Leaders Network Chairman, Ian Mason for your endless guidance and counsel - without you there would have been many times when paralysis seemed like the only option, but you helped me find the path to carry on;

To our Future Leaders Network Chief Operating Officer, Alistair Lobo, for your invaluable companionship on this incredible journey. You are the yin to my yang. I treasured every conversation, and every ounce of the thoughtfulness, insight and compassion that you shared with me this year.

And most importantly, to all the young people involved in the Y7 process and those working to make a difference in their own communities and areas; you are the reason we do what we do. Thank you for your continued drive, ambition and desire to change the world.

- Sophie Daud, CEO of FLN, December 2021

Sophie Daud

Appendix

Appendix A: Evaluation Methodology

To ensure we understand the effectiveness of all of the Y7 activities, we have conducted a full scale evaluation of the Y7 inclusivity, development and impact.

An evaluation framework was created to ensure all outcomes from the Theory of Change would be analysed and evaluated. We then designed quantitative and qualitative questions to evaluate inclusivity, development and impact across multiple participating groups of the Y7.

To evaluate the outcomes we captured data from a range of participants in the Y7 through:

- Surveys for the Delegates, Youth Forum and Task Force:
 - » Baseline survey to capture skills levels before training programme
 - » Multiple interim surveys to capture feedback on the Y7 process, used to inform the iteration of FLN's approach
 - » Endline survey to capture final read on the entire experience, their personal development and impact
- Survey for the Y7 Summit attendees following the Y7 Summit
- Survey for the Y7 #AtTheTable Ambassadors
- Survey for the Youth Sector Network

Through the above surveys we collected the views of 136 young people in total, and 8 partner youth sector organisations.

Further to this primary data, we analysed other evidence gathered:

- The quantitative and qualitative research data, conducted by the delegates and FLN to inform the Y7 communiqué
- UK delegate applicant ethnographic data - for analysing the diversity of applicants for the inclusion strand
- The published Y7 communiqué
- Evidence of the impact Y7's communiqué has had on the G7 from other sources such as media stories, anecdotal feedback from ministers

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